FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 APRIL 1983

Lebanon

U.S. Embassy Explosion — A powerful explosion seriously damaged the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, killing at least 30, including several Americans, and injuring scores of others, Beirut radio reported. Lebanese security sources confirmed that the blast was caused by a booby-trapped car with a false diplomatic license plate that crashed into the embassy compound, according to the radio. Within minutes after the explosion the "Islamic Jihad Organization" claimed responsibility for the attack in a telephone call to AFP's office in Beirut, the agency said. Later, Voice of Lebanon radio said Lebanese security forces have detained a number of suspects.

Reaction — Lebanese leaders were quick to condemn the attack. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan strongly denounced the bombing and reaffirmed that Lebanon will not let this blow divert it from seeking the path of stability and salvation, Beirut radio said. President Amin al-Jumayyil called it a "criminal act" in his condolence message to President Reagan after inspecting the damage and personally supervising the rescue operations, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Foreign Minister Elie Salim in a message to Secretary of State Shultz also expressed his belief that this attack, aimed at weakening U.S. and Lebanese determination to restore peace and unity, will not succeed, the Voice of Lebanon reported.

In Israel the prime minister's office said the explosion illustrates precisely why Israel must insist on matters vital to the survival and well-being of its citizens, IDF Radio reported. "Political circles" in Israel hoped that the Beirut attack will encourage Washington to speed up the talks toward an agreement and called for acknowledgement of the "justness" of Israel's demands regarding security, the radio said. Subsequently, Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir welcomed President Reagan's announcement that the attack on the embassy will not deter U.S. efforts to seek peace in the Middle East, Jerusalem radio said.

Noting that foreign broadcasts have connected Iran with the U.S. Embassy explosion, IRNA said these "opinionated" reports presage fresh plots against Iran's Islamic Revolution. According to an earlier IRNA report, the PLO envoy to Tehran received the news with "gladness" and expressed hope that it would serve as the beginning of a series of new operations against U.S. interests in the region. SANA reported that Iranian television denied any Iranian connection with the bombing.

Netanya Talks — The Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. negotiations resumed at Netanya on 19 April, Jerusalem radio noted.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat Activities — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Prague where he held talks with Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak, according to CTK and Prague radio. 'Arafat also met with an Israeli RAKAH party delegation in Prague, ITIM reported. Citing PLO sources in Tunis, AFP said 'Arafat will visit Hungary after Czechoslovakia and may also visit Romania. Meanwhile, a Palestinian source in Fes announced that 'Arafat will visit the Soviet Union in the near future, according to KUNA. The director of the PLO office in Fes subsequently revealed that 'Arafat is expected to return to Morocco shortly to complete the talks he began with King Hassan II over the weekend, KUNA reported.

Al-Wazir on Military Operations, U.S. — The PLO will step up military operations against Israeli forces in the coming period, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir announced during an Al-Biqa' inspection tour in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Al-Wazir also told journalists in Damascus that the United States is carrying out an "intensive campaign" against the PLO by inciting Arab countries to withdraw recognition of the organization, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Warning of further U.S. "interference" in Palestinian internal affairs through a political and media campaign against the PLO accompanied by "instigative conspiracies," Al-Wazir said the U.S. position encourages Israel to launch a military attack against PLO bases.

Syria

The deputy defense minister left for Moscow on a 10-day official visit to the Soviet Union, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Monitored Syrian media have not reported the visit.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation — Iraq has decided to reply strongly to Iran's repeated artillery shelling of Basra and Mandali, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. The Iranians are holding Iraq's warnings in contempt, he said. Iranian and Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Tehran and Baghdad radios indicated that fighting on 17-18 April was largely confined to exchanges of artillery fire during which the Iranians hit Basra and Mandali while the Iraqis shelled Abadan. In a statement broadcast by Baghdad radio, an Iraqi military spokesman claimed that total Iranian losses in the Maysan-Faqih battles 10-17 April included 14,982 killed.

Iraqi-Sponsored Peace Committee — the "Popular Islamic Conference" has formed a "peace and reconciliation committee" which is ready to visit Iran immediately if the Iranian Government grants permission, INA reported citing an "authoritative" source from the conference, which met recently in Baghdad. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has approved the committee's task, which is to ask Iran and Iraq to negotiate directly a solution that will preserve both sides' rights and restore good bilateral relations, INA said.

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PLO's Al-Wazir: Resistance To Step Up Operations

JN190604 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, during an inspection tour of the Palestinian forces' positions in the Al-Biqa' Valley yesterday, stressed that the Palestinian resistance will step up its military operations against the Israeli forces in the coming stage.

PLO General on Palestinian Air Force, Navy

GF161058 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Brigadier General Ahmad 'Afanah, alias Abu al-Mu'tasim, chief of the Palestinian Revolution central operations room has expressed belief that the Palestinian air force will take part in retaliation against any Zionist aggression against Syria, within a preset plan.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN from Al-Biqa' in Lebanon, Brig Gen 'Afanah noted that these forces, which the Palestinian Revolution has had for a long time, have increased in efficiency and experience. He also referred to the role played by the Palestinian naval forces during the Zionist siege of Beirut, saying that these forces gave ships loaded with ammunition and weapons access to the Palestinian resistance.

Fatah's Al-Hasan on Relations With Jordan

PM141804 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Telephone interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Mahir 'Uthman from London — date not given]

[Text] London [date not given] — Following the statement issued by the Jordanian Government regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Movement Central Committee member and political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, went to the Jordanian capital, where he had a meeting with Jordanian monarch King Husayn. He then left for Morocco, where he met with Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II. The following interview was conducted with him there:

Question: What course will the Palestinian political action now take following the statement the Jordanian Cabinet issued regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and how do you view the Jordanian statement?

Answer: There is no doubt that Jordanian-Palestinian relations have been through a phase of great tension. Despite the fact that the Jordanian statement was objective and I consider it to be a constructive statement that does not aim at exploding the situation but rather discusses things objectively, the basic point involves the framework within which the political move should be made because we all agree on the Fes summit [resolutions]. There must be an Arab framework to manage this conflict with the United States because any political move that is not backed by military, economic, and financial pressure is of no value. We have discussed this matter with the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, and I was glad because he showed understanding of the Palestinian viewpoint, which is not a stand against Jordan but rather is a method of managing the conflict so as to confront U.S.-Israeli plans for things.

Everybody has observed that the Arab and international reaction (to the Jordanian statement) was cautious because everybody realizes that the Palestinian role in the political moves to solve the Middle East crisis is a basic role that cannot be ignored. We must all be patient and cooperate in order to create an Arab formula that ensures a productive political move because if the present political opportunities are lost, their loss will be great and not easy to recover. Therefore we must be very precise in formulating political moves.

Events have proved that, despite differences of views, Jordanian-Palestinian relations do exist on a solid basis and that these relations are unbreakable. I hope that in the next meeting between Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and His Majesty King Husayn — which might take place in Amman or outside it — we will be able to work out a formula on the basis of Fes [resolutions] which will receive Arab and international suppport.

On the international level I believe that we must consult with France, which could play an important role in the coming stage, particularly following the position which the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has been able to secure from British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym during his recent visit to the Kingdom.

Question: While there is talk of the "search for a formula" to solve the Middle East crisis, Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank is proceeding at a rapid pace, the occupation of Lebanon continues, the specter of Sharon's plan, which is known as "the Jordanian option," is still threatening, and the eviction of Palestinians from the occupied territories is continuing. What effect, in your opinion, will this have on the formula of the political move you are referring to?

Answer: It is in the light of these circumstances that the Fatah Movement command studied the problem at its meeting in Kuwait. It was studied not only from the aspect of the verbal proposals that were made but also from the aspect of U.S. credibility. It was supposed, as the Americans promised, that there would be an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in February and now it is April. Therefore the United States must keep its word and prove its credibility before it argues with the Arabs and asks them to take with it another step forward toward peace.

Putting the Arab house in order is also a basic and important matter. One of the basic issues is to find a formula to which Syria will be a party because in the final analysis Syria is included in the confrontation trench.

With regard to the eviction of Palestinian residents from the occupied territories, this is a point on which we and Jordan see eye to eye and have a common understanding. We are prepared to formulate common views in order to take practical measures to curb the emigration and its dangers. In our capacity as the

PLO we are concerned with pursuing an effective and practical course that confirms our rejection of the idea of an alternative homeland because the idea means [Israeli] annexation of the West Bank and Gaza and its aim is to create a Jordanian-Palestinian rift that should not and cannot happen.

We Palestinians look at the world and the Zionist enemy with our Palestinian face while we look at our Jordanian brothers with our Arab face. The Jordanians and Palestinians have offered the only successful example of Arab unity in the area. It is an existing unity and not a planned unity. It is a plan that has been completed. It is on the solid rock of this unity that the dream of Zionism, God willing, will be shattered. We are working together in order to recover our usurped land.

Question: Has a date been fixed for an extraordinary Arab summit in Fes?

Answer: The matter is being discussed. The purpose is to find a mechanism to implement the Arab Fes plan.

PLO's Al-Wazir Comments on Jordanian-PLO Talks

LD172010 Riyadh SPA in English 1917 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 14, SPA — Deputy Commander in Chief of the Palestinian Forces Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) in an interview published today denied that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue had reached a deadlock. "Joint meetings are due to be held shortly," he told AR-RIYAD newspaper.

He called for more vigilance to encounter enemy designs and said the Arabs should take further steps to "save the Arab nation from disintegration and miserable situation."

Mr Abu Jihad also called for unifying Arab ranks and forces and said the Israeli enemy was reinforcing daily its positions and presence in occupied territory.

Mr Abu Jihad accused the U.S. Administration of interfering in domestic affairs of the Palestinians and the Arabs since it called on Arab states last week to reconsider their recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

He added that the American uproar which followed the Palestinian-Jordanian talks and the accusation made by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that Palestinian extremists were responsible for the "failure" in negotiations between Jordan and PLO, should be considered as "unacceptable" interference in internal affairs of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

"Moreover, it should also be considered as unsuccessful attempts to pressure the Arab nation," he said.

PLO Official On Negotiations With Morocco

LD181647 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Fes, 18 Apr (KUNA) — Director of the PLO office Wajih Hasan Qasim today said that "the PLO has not agreed to call for a meeting of the so-called Steadfastness and Confrontation Front."

Qasim told KUNA that "consultations with Morocco, in its capacity as chairman of the Arab summit, are still continuing in order to protect the Arab posture."

He said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat he held during the past 2 days with King Hassan II of Morocco. He said that "the PLO has not received any notification about resuming a dialogue with Jordan."

He said that the PLO is "sensitive concerning its relations with all the sister Arab countries."

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Israel Seen To Be Hampering POW Exchange

GF181406 Doha QNA in Arabic 1225 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 Apr (QNA) — A responsible Palestinian source has affirmed that it is the Zionist enemy who is placing obstacles in the way of the exchange of prisoners of war between it and the PLO, by denying the presence of 112 Palestinian strugglers in the Zionist enemy's prisons.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Damascus today, the source said despite mediation by the Red Cross and the envoy of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, Israel still denies the presence of these strugglers in its prisons. The source asserted that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has confirmed information that these PFLP-GC strugglers are in Israeli occupation prisons. He added that the PFLP-GC will not allow anyone to visit the Israeli prisoners of war held by it unless Israel acknowledges the names of the 112 strugglers detained in its prisons.

The source said the PLO recently received a request from the International Red Cross to allow the mothers of the Israeli prisoners of war held by the resistance to visit them. "The mothers of the Palestinian detainees in the enemy's prisons also wish to see their sons," the source added.

The source said the PLO has officially requested the Red Cross representative in Damascus inform the organization of the need to make serious and sincere efforts and to pressure Israel to clarify the status of the 112 Palestinian strugglers whose presence Israel denies and whose names it did not include in the lists the enemy authorities delivered to the International Red Cross organization recently.

It is worth noting that the Palestinian resistance has eight prisoners of war; six of them are held by Fatah and the other two are held by the PFLP-GC. The PLO announced recently that it transferred these prisoners of war from the Lebanese area of Al-Biqa' to a sister Arab country after resistance's security organs discovered that Israel was preparing a large-scale military adventure to release them.

'Intensive' U.S. Anti-PLO Campaign Condemned

JN181810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has accused U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration of inciting Arab countries to withdraw their recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In a statement to the press in Damascus he said that the U.S. Administration is carrying out an intensive campaign against the PLO by trying to incite Arab countries to withdraw their recognition of the PLO and calling on these countries to confront it under the pretext that it is an obstacle to peace.

Brother Abu Jihad added that this U.S. position is flagrant intereference in the internal affairs of the PLO and the Arab countries. He said that this means in the next stage we will expect a political and media campaign against the PLO accompanied by instigative conspiracies. He said that this U.S. position gives Israel the green light to carry out military aggression against our revolution's bases outside and against our sons inside the occupied homeland.

Abu Jihad held the United States responsible for the disruption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. He said: We do not believe that we reached a deadlock with Jordan. We will continue the dialogue to establish the strongest and best relations with Jordan and all the Arab countries.

Arab League Figure Criticizes Shultz' Statements

LD181446 Tunis TAP in English 1354 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tunis, April 18 (TAP) — Commenting on the latest statements of the American State Secretary George Shultz on the Middle-East, a spokesman from the Arab League Secretariat General made the following statement.

"The recent conversation, held by George Shultz, the American state secretary was deceiving. In fact, he charged the PLO with being uniquely responsible "having compromised the most propitious occasion" to justly restore peace and security in the Middle-East, closing his eyes on Israel's aim of brutally rejecting the Reagan plan and all the other suggested peace plans.

"Raising an accusation against the PLO, is wanting to be ignorant of an evident reality especially that Mr Shultz charges the party which supported the Fes peace plan, an initiative which refers to international laws and UN decisions whereas Israel defines international law and categorically rejects President Reagan's proposal.

"Would not Israel deserve such attacks which are quasi-unanimously thought by the international community, to be a systematic fact impeding the Middle-East peace procedure.

Anxious to establish a just peace, the Arab states are convinced that it is time for the American Administration to assume all its responsibilities to face the precarious situation in the Middle-East, to reexamine its relations with the states of the area and to establish a certain equilibrium taking into consideration justice and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

OPEC Follow-up Committee To Review Oil Market

GF151052 Doha QNA in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 15 Apr (WAKH) — QNA has learned that the members of the OPEC ministerial follow-up committee are currently holding consultations to convene a meeting of the committee in London on 18 April to review the situation in the world oil market and the effect of the resolutions which OPEC recently adopted fixing the benchmark for crude at$29 per barrel and the production ceiling at 17.5 million barrels per day.

Citing well-informed petroleum sources in Abu Dhabi the QNA correspondent reports that the committee, chaired by UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah and includes the oil ministers of Algeria, Venezuala, and Indonesia, has been given broad powers so that it can carry out its task in the best possible manner, particularly with regard to following up developments in the market since the latest OPEC extraordinary conference that was held in London.

The sources add that the committee is authorized to call for a new extraordinary OPEC conference if there should be any turbulence in the market or if some OPEC member countries do not abide by the resolutions of the London conference on fixing prices and production shares.

OPEC Ministers Assess Results of Price Cut

LD181320 Vienna OPECNA in English 1120 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] London, 18 Apr. (OPECNA) — Oil ministers of OPEC'S market monitoring committee meet here today to assess the effectiveness of the prices and production accord reached last month.

The committee is chaired by UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah and includes his counterparts from Algeria, Indonesia, and Venezuela.

Oil prices have firmed since the cut in OPEC'S benchmark price from 34 to 29 U.S. dollars per barrel, to the extent that last week Venezeula felt confident enough to raise the price of a range of oil product exports.

Britain's decision not to undercut the OPEC price has also added to market confidence. OPEC marketing experts met here Sunday to prepare for today's committee meeting.

OAPEC Ministers To Meet in Damascus 25 May

GF151056 Doha QNA in Arabic 1028 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (QNA) — The OAPEC ministerial council and the OAPEC Executive Bureau will meet in Damascus on 25 May.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Damascus an official of the Syrian Oil and Natural Resources Ministry said that the ministry has begun to make the necessary preparations for these meetings.

The official said that many issues facing OAPEC and the ways to deal with them, as well as OAPEC'S plan and future actions and projects will be discussed during these meetings.

Venezuela Announces Oil Derivative Price Hike

PA150446 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0026 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Caracas, 14 Apr (EFE) — The Venezuelan Energy and Mines Ministry announced slight price increases in some petroleum derivatives today. According to the official announcement, an increase of $1.26 per barrel for diesel, $0.84 per barrel for "Jet Kero," $0.63 for gasolines, and $0.50 per barrel for high-sulfur residuals has been adopted.

The announcement pointed out that "these increases tend to confirm a tendency toward a strengthening of the market that has been observed since last month's OPEC meeting in London."

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Saudi Oil Minister 18 April

GF181121 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Manama, 18 Apr (WAKH) — Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, received here this morning Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources, who is currently visiting Manama.

The audience was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Yusuf ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and minister of state for Cabinet affairs, and Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Shaykh 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Qadi.

Following the audience, the Saudi minister made a statement to WAKH, saying that he reviewed with the amir the oil situation in general and the imminent stability in the field of petroleum. He said he also discussed bilateral oil affairs. The minister added that the problem of pollution in the Gulf and future procedures to avoid heavy pollution damage were reviewed from a technical angle. The minister referred to the joint Busa'fah field. He said that Bahraini-Saudi oil relations are strong and that Saudi Arabia supplies the Bahrain refinery with more than 70 percent of the refinery's energy supply.

The Saudi minister explained that he will study all these oil issues and other matters extensively with the Bahraini development minister. He noted that this study has already begun and needs only to be carried out.

Saudi Oil Minister Departs

GF181348 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Manama, 18 Apr (WAKH) — Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral affairs, left for Riyadh this afternoon after a visit to Bahrain that lasted a few hours.

During his visit, Shaykh Yamani held talks with Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry and acting minister of Cabinet affairs, on oil issues between the two countries and world oil developments.

OMAN

Paper Reports Interview With Sultan Qabus

GF181924 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Apr 83 pp 1, 22

[Report on interview with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id with five Arab journalists including Riyad Najib ar-Rayyis, AL-ANBA' Washington correspondent, on last day of his visit to the United States]

[Excerpts] Sultan Qabus stressed that there is currently a feeling, held by the friends of the United States in the Gulf region, that if they need any security assistance, the United States, if requested, will not hesitate to provide this aid under any circumstances, whereas in the past, there had been great doubt about U.S. capability to carry out any action of this kind.

The sultan expressed reservations toward imposition of sanctions on Iran if it ignores repeated calls to end the fighting. He supported the dominant feeling of U.S. and Western diplomacy that a boycott and sanctions may push the regime into intransigence and extremism, and consequently will not achieve the desirable results.

Sultan Qabus inquired why there have been no contacts with the Soviet Union to end the Iraq-Iran war instead of merely pursuing it from one side, since the joint efforts may bring about an end to this war. He said that "he supports such measures and that the Gulf countries are open-minded to views in order to reach a solution to this complicated issue."

He said that his talks in Washington concentrated on two basic issues: The Palestinian issue and the Lebanese issue — "even bilateral relations did not come up for discussion because there are no problems in our relations" — to the point that all his efforts and time were focused on the Middle East issue. The sultan of Oman added: "I found in the Reagan administration a sincere desire and serious understanding of the crisis we are experiencing. This administration is trying its utmost to solve these two problems. They listened carefully to what I said. I certainly did not add anything new to what is already known on the position of the Arab nation in this respect. I explained matters and touched on points that I believe should be reviewed. I stressed the time factor. The time factor is important in the United States because the election is upcoming, and this is important on the Arab level because the Israeli occupationists are quickly swallowing up Arab territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Undoubtedly some impediments obstructed the Reagan initiative. I proposed to the U.S. officials that they amend this initiative in order to make it more acceptable."

Sultan Qabus refused to elaborate on the amendments he proposed on the U.S. initiative. He inquired: "Why don't the Americans sit with Syria, with Jordan, with Egypt, and with all the Palestinians, including those who live in the occupied territories, and seriously exchange views without making any fuss? My impression is that the Reagan administration demonstrated great interest in what it heard."

Sultan Qabus noted that the talks on the Lebanese issue were the longest, indicating that he was very hard on the U.S. officials in regard to the Lebanese issue in his talks with them. Sultan Qabus said: "I told the officials that the Arab nation cannot understand how the United States is unable to solve the problem of Israeli intransigence in Lebanon. We know that solving the Palestinian issue is difficult because there are many intertwined elements and powers involved. But we cannot comprehend the problem behind the Israelis refusal to withdraw from Lebanon at a time the United States is present in Lebanon and is concerned with speeding up the Israelis withdrawal from there. I told the Americans that they are facing a test in Lebanon. So either they fail or succeed. If they fail then the reaction of this failure will reflect badly on them and on their friends. Confidence in U.S.

capability is currently in doubt and the Americans have to find a quick solution to this matter."

Answering a question on his opinion regarding the convening of another Arab summit he said: "Frankly speaking, I believe that things are not suitable to holding an Arab summit at present. Had the summit been held a few weeks ago, and before King Husayn's meeting with 'Arafat, then things would be conducive to holding a summit. Today, we do not have a single clear-cut view on various matters. Let us first develop clear-cut views and discuss them, then the Arab leaders can meet to give their opinions on them. It is regrettable that there are no new views on the situation that would promote holding another summit meeting."

PRC Official Departs After 8-Day Visit

GF161604 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text](Ku Kuang), PRC vice minister of labor and personnel, and the delegation accompanying him, left Muscat today at the end of an 8-day visit to Oman. During his visit, he met with Thuyawni ibn Shihab, special adviser to the sultan and governor of Muscat, and other Omani officials. He also held talks with Shaykh 'Amir (Shu'ayn al-Husni), acting under secretary of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

(Ku Kuang) extended an invitation from the PRC minister to Shaykh Mustahil ibn Ahmad al-Ma'shani, minister of labor and social affairs, to visit the PRC.

In a predeparture statement to a radio correspondent, the visiting PRC official said that his meetings and talks with Omani officials concentrated on the exchange of views and strengthening the common understanding and ties of friendship between the two sides which creates new, favorable conditions for activating the existing cooperation between the two countries. He added: Oman and China have ancient civilizations and their two peoples have longstanding friendly relations. Friendship between the two countries has developed in recent years, particularly following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1978.

(Ku Kuang) added: The exchange of visits by officials of the PRC and Oman is the best evidence of the common desire to strengthen the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The PRC guest expressed his admiration of Oman's great achievements during the reign of Sultan Qabus in preserving national independence, developing the national economy, and developing education and culture. He said that labor circles in Oman attach great importance to using human intelligence, thus bringing about a speedy development of vocational training, and that this is proof of farsightedness.

PDRY

YSP Committee Receives Message From CPSU

GF161454 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] The YSP Central Committee has received a message from the CPSU Central Committee on the latest developments in the situation in the Middle East, affirming that the existing situation on the Syrian border in the Al-Biqa' Valley, due to Zionist military warnings, is becoming more tense with the new intensive U.S. arms supplies to Israel.

The message reiterated the Soviet Union's warning to Israel and recalled the Soviet Government's statement of 30 March and said: The peace-loving and progressive forces cannot remain inactive regarding the new developments. Soviet public opinion and the information media, while expressing the Soviet people's view, strongly denounce Israeli adventurism and that of its U.S. protectors.

Reviewing developments, the CPSU Central Committee noted that the situation has seriously deteriorated as a result of the massive aggression against Lebanon by Israel, which is being massively and intensively aided by the United States. Apart from the previously Israeli-occupied territories — the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights — a large part of the Lebanese republic is being occupied by Israel. It is now clear to everyone that the ruling circles in Israel do not intend to withdraw from the territories occupied since the 1967 aggression and even want to consecrate the occupation of the Lebanese territories. In talks with Lebanon, the United States and Israel are imposing exorbitant and capitulatory conditions on sovereign Lebanon aimed at dismembering Lebanon and turning it into an inherited estate for the Israeli military, U.S. imperialism, and its NATO allies.

The CPSU Central Committee's message affirmed that under the slogan of the so-called "multinational force," and by using the occupation forces as pressure, the U.S. Administration is trying to turn Lebanon into a spearhead for the imperialist military strategy, to establish a military strike force in it to control the fate of independent Arab countries, use the force in direct intervention, and force them to take a course satisfactory to U.S. imperialist and neo-colonialist circles. The fact is that the current issue is the real military occupation of Lebanon by the United States and other NATO members.

The message adds: Despite the impudent and blunt pressure on the Arabs, the new anti-Arab expansionist plans are meeting obstacles because the legitimate Lebanese authorities do not accept the U.S.-Israeli conditions. Also, the ranks of the Palestinian resistance, whose activities have doubled under the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, are united to achieve these people's legitimate national rights.

Turning to the threats against Syria, the message said that Syria has become the main obstacle in achieving the imperialist plot and this is why Israel, and its U.S. protectors, have launched the severest and ugliest campaign against Syria, coupled with threats to launch direct, armed aggression against it. To justify this series of threats and blackmail, a disinformation campaign is being used against a number of measures, which Syria intends to adopt, that have a full defense character and completely harmonize with its legitimate rightsand internationally-recognized law.

The message said that Israel's build-up of its military forces near the Syrian border and in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley cannot be overlooked at a time when it is increasing pressure on Syria.

In conclusion, the message recalled the Soviet Union's stand that all conflicts, including the Middle East conflict, should not be resolved by the shedding of more blood, but peacefully and through political means.

UAE

UAE Dailies Blame U.S. Bias for Embassy Explosion

GF190830 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (WAM) — The newspapers AL-ITTIHAD and AL-WAHDAH have affirmed that the United States, in its procrastination and complete bias toward Zionist ambitions, provides an excuse for violent acts against it in Lebanon. The big explosion that destroyed the U.S. Embassy building in Beirut yesterday affirms to everyone that security cannot be achieved through occupation, as Israel and the United States claim.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD said the explosion that claimed dozens of dead or wounded victims raises many questions about what is taking place in Beirut now or what has been taking place since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon began on 4 June last year. The newspaper editorially noted that these questions focus on the timing, goals, perpetrators, and plotters of the explosion and the circumstances that motivated them and facilitated their job.

The newspaper also said not listening to reason opens the door to the emergence of extremist forces. The paper said the perpetrators want to give the impression that the Lebanese Army is too weak to maintain security in Beirut — something that would justify the continuation of occupation.

The newspaper refuted this claim saying that when the Palestinians were in Beirut, and since the beginning of civil war in Lebanon, nothing happened to the American citizens in Beirut. But after the departure of the Palestinians, "Beirut became an arena and hotbed for the U.S., British, French, and Italian forces, besides being surrounded by the Zionist occupation. This affirms to the United States and everyone else that no security could be achieved by occupation only."

The newspaper AL-WAHDAH said no matter who destroyed the U.S. Embassy and is launching attacks against the multinational force, such an action is a violent, popular Lebanese corollary of the U.S. Administration's procrastination, broken promises, and insincerity regarding commitments it assumed when the Lebanese forces and the combative forces departed Beirut.

The newspaper editorially continued: "The U.S. Administration gave assurances to protect West Beirut from an Israeli sweep; the sweep took place. It gave assurances to protect Lebanese and Palestinian civilians; Zionism killed thousands of them. Then it gave assurances to secure Israel's withdrawal without incapacitating conditions, set a number of dates, and broke its promises. Could the Lebanese response be otherwise after these guarantees?"

The paper said that with its procrastination and bias toward Zionist ambitions and designs, the Reagan administration gives an excuse to forces to commit such violent acts against it in Lebanon, "acts that will lead to its full involvement there so itspeacekeeping forces will have to defend themselves first and consequently establish themselves as an intervention and occupation force in favor of Zionism and against any Arab attempt to rebel against the law of division."

Finally, the newspaper said: "The continuation of the U.S. position is the first and last culprit responsible for the bloodshed in Beirut yesterday, and all future bloodshed so long as the occupation and U.S. procrastination, which justifies occupation, continues."

Ghali: Reagan Initiative Still Alive
PM181608 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Apr 83 p 1

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali by ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT correspondent in Washington — date not given]

[Text] Washington — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said in an exclusive statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt will hold further contacts with the United States, the PLO, and the Arab countries in order to activate Reagan's initiative and resolve the crisis that has resulted from the breakdown of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman. After meeting President Ronald Reagan he said that he felt that the President is determined to pursue his initiative.

In his statement to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Dr Ghali said that President Mubarak's message, which he handed to President Reagan, dealt with recent developments in the area and was part of the continuing consultations between Egypt and the United States. He said that, at the instructions of President Mubarak and within the context of total Egyptian-Omani diplomatic coordination at summit level, he briefed Sultan Qabus, who is at present in Washington, about the outcome of the talks conducted in Washington.

The Egyptian minister of state added: Our plan is aimed at removing the Israeli forces from Lebanon first so that on the basis of that precedent we can remove the Israeli forces from the West Bank and Gaza and install a Palestinian administration to replace the Israeli military administration which has been ruling 1 million Palestinians for 16 years. We hope that the breakdown of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks will prompt the United States to step up its diplomatic action to secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon at the earliest possible time. The achievement of such a withdrawal will be the most credible measure to build up confidence in the area and encourage the moderates in the Arab homeland to pursue the peace process.

Continuing, Dr Ghali said: The U.S. election year restricts the U.S. Government's ability to make diplomatic moves, especially with regard to the Middle East crisis, because pressure groups play a role in influencing these elections. For this reason we call for rapid action before the U.S. Administration becomes preoccupied with the election campaign.

Replying to a question regarding Israel's attitude toward Reagan's initiative, he said: We have been accustomed to Israeli intransigence whether in statements or at the negotiating table. Moshe Dayan used to say: We prefer war while remaining in Sha'm ash-Shaykh to peace without it. Ezer Weizman used to say: The airfields built in Sinai are a cornerstone of the Israeli strategy and so we cannot dispense with them. Egypt recovered those airfields as well as the Yamit settlement. Therefore we should not attach undue importance to the Israeli statements. Reagan's initiative will not die as long as there is behind it a U.S. will to translate it from an idea into a reality. The talks I have had in Washington confirm that this will exists. It is the duty of the Arabs who believe in the method of negotiation to preserve this will.

INA: Soviet Official Leaves For Cairo
JN190756 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr (INA) — Yuriy A. Kirichenko, the chief of the Department of Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries at the Soviet Foreign Ministry , left here for Cairo last night heading a four-member delegation for a 5-day visit to Egypt. A well-informed source here has told INA that the Soviet delegation will hold talks in Cairo today with Egyptian officials aimed at normalizing scientific and cultural relations between the two countries.

The source pointed out that the two sides will crown their talks with a protocol on cultural and scientific cooperation for the years 1983-84.

Abu Ghazalah on Middle East Defense Strategy
NC160844 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah has emphasized that although Egypt harbors no aggressive intentions against any of its neighbors, it will confront with all strength and firmness any direct or indirect threat to its security.

In an interview which the Cairo weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM publishes today, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah says: The Arab-Israeli dispute and the Iraqi-Iranian dispute have their effect on Arab security. Therefore, it is necessary to take long strides to achieve a quick settlement to these disputes in a manner conforming to Arab interests. The deputy prime minister and defense minister points out that anyone who plans the national security must take into account the fact that security is indivisible and that all threats to this security must be taken into consideration.

Abu Ghazalah explains that the area extending between the Arab Gulf to the east and the Nile Valley to the west is considered as one strategic bloc and that a threat to a part of it is considered as a threat to the entire area.

Referring to the peace question, Abu Ghazalah expresses his belief that peace cannot be established on hopes alone but that it is established on strong material bases and that the military balance is one of these. He explains taht there is no contradiction between peace and the possession of a deterrent defensive capability because the possession of this capability is considered one of the factors for strengthening peace, particularly because the concept of a defensive ability convinces the foe that aggression will bring no benefits and that the continuation of peace is the best available option.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah affirms that the peace established between Egypt and Israel is considered a stage along the path of a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in the area. He says that the realization of a comprehensive peace will lead to an atmosphere which will produce a new equation in the calculation of controls of the relations [as received] among the states in the area on the one hand and the criteria for handling conflict in the area on the other hand.

In his interview, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah stresses that the security strategy of the Middle East must be based on the need for action to prevent the Middle East area from becoming an arena for the cold-hot war between the two superpowers. He says that it is necessary to ease the tension in the area to a minimum.

Abu Ghazalah adds that this security strategy for the area is based on the need to end Arab differences, achieve Arab solidarity and do away with the attempts at polarization and the policy of axes in the Arab arena. It is further based on the need to achieve quickly a just and durable solution to the main disputes in the area, particularly the Arab-Israeli dispute, Iraqi-Iranian dispute, and the conflict in the Horn of Africa. He also says that this strategy requires the provision of circumstances which would permit the Arab nation to effectively exploit its potential in order to realize its aims and interests.

Mubarak Reviews Results of Asian Tour

NC161324 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak held a meeting at the Al-'Urubah Palace this morning with the political and executive leaderships to review the results of his recent tour to the PRC, DPRK, Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan and to discuss the internal situation and the achievements realized vis-a-vis the projects in the 5-year plan.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Deputy Prime Minister and Petroleum Minister Engineer 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Education and Scientific Research Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi,and Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha.

The president held another meeting this morning. It was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and the ministers of agriculture, industry, supply, interior, economy, and international investment and cooperation.

Following the meeting Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said that the president discussed some supply affairs with the ministers concerned and that he demanded coordination among the ministries concerned to ensure the availability of goods in the markets, particularly during the month of Ramadan.

President Mubarak Tours Al-Buhayrah, Alexandria

NC171724 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this morning made a 3-hour field tour during which he visited four production units in the governorates of Al-Buhayrah and Alexandria. The president was accompanied on his tour by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Minister of State for Emigration Albert Barsum Salamah, Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah, Planning Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, and Industry and Mineral Resources Minister Engineer Muhammad as-Sayyid al-Gharuri.

During his tour, President Husni Mubarak visited the Misr Sibagh al-Baydah company and opened the Abu Qir electricity station, whose output is 600 million megawatts [as heard] and the Al-Mahmudiyah electricity station whose output is 400 million megawatts. [as heard] His excellency also made a field visit to the Al-Mahmudiyah spinning mill.

Continues Inspection Tours

NC181047 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has resumed his field tours by visiting production centers in Egypt. Accompanied by Planning Minister Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, his excellency visited the armed forces medicine factory this morning. President Mubarak and his companions inspected the various parts of the factory and heard a report by the officials on the production of medicines and medical needs.

This factory meets the armed forces' needs for medicines and contributes to meeting the citizens' requirements.

The president then inspected the national center for controling energy and the sugar company in Al-Hawamidiyah.

PRC Cultural Minister Meets with Prime Minister

NC181612 Cairo MENA in English 1545 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA) — Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din conferred today with the visiting Chinese minister of culture on means of promoting joint cooperation in the cultural and technical fields in the light of President Husni Mubarak's recent visit to China.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Culture 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan and the Chinese ambassador here.

The Chinese official arrived here on Wednesday for a (?week-long) visit to Egypt.

Cultural Program Signed

NC182018 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA) — The executive program for the cultural cooperation agreement for the period 1983-1985 between Egypt and the PRC was signed at the Cultural Ministry this evening.

Minister of State for Culture Muhammad 'Abd al-Hamid Radwan signed for Egypt and PRC Minister of Culture Zhu Muzhi, who is currently visiting Egypt, signed for China.

The program stipulates an exchange in scholarships and visits between university professors and higher education officials and the holding of courses for teaching the Arab language in China the Chinese language in Egypt. The program also provides for an

exchange of archeologists, staging of artistic exhibitions, exchange of folk art groups, teaching the art of acrobatics in Egypt, and cooperation in the fields of health, youth, sports, radio, and television. It also provides for bolstering cooperation between the news agencies of both countries.

Jordan Invites Trade Delegation To Visit

NC151136 Cairo MENA in English 1125 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, April 15 (MENA) — Jordan has extended the invitation to a trade-economic delegation to visit Amman shortly to discuss means of boosting bilateral trade ties in the light of the results reached during the talks held recently here between Jordan industry and trade undersecretary and the Egyptian side.

According to the agreement reached recently between Jordan and Egypt, a joint committee will meet next autumn to review the economic ties and to introduce the necessary amendments to the trade protocol signed between the two countries in 1978 and which had been frozen by Jordan since April 1979.

Prime Minister meets With UN Press Delegation

NC172034 Cairo MENA in English 2010 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, April 17 (MENA) — Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din conferred here tonight with the United Nations pressmen delegation, currently visiting Egypt, on different aspects of the Middle East situation.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din expounded Egypt's efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region and its efforts to bring about the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The role of the international and regional organizations and the role of the United States to bring about peace in the Middle East have also been discussed.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the State Information Service Dr Mamduh al-Biltaji.

The UN pressmen delegation is on a current fact finding tour of a number of the Middle East countries particularly as regards the Palestinian cause.

'Ali Meets ASEAN Ambassadors on Kampuchean Issue

NC181555 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the five ASEAN ambassadors in Cairo at their request. They are the ambassadors of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

During the meeting, the ambassadors explained the current situation in Southeast Asia, especially in light of the flagrant Vietnamese acts of aggression against Kampuchea, the latest of which was the aggression committed on 7 April. They also explained the seriousness of this aggression with regard to Kampuchea and the entire area. The ambassadors asked Egypt to act to halt this aggression and Vietnam's interference in Kampuchea.

MENA has learned that Egypt will issue a statement denouncing this aggression and condemning the foreign interference in Kampuchea that have harmed the interests of the Kampuchean people, and calling for the implementation of the UN resolutions related to this conflict.

'Ali Invited to Conference on Palestinian Issue

NC181650 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has received an invitation to attend the regional Asian conference on the Palestinian issue which will convene in Kuala Lumpur from 2-7 May under UN supervision.

Malaysian ambassador in Cairo Abdoullah Zawawi conveyed the invitation to Kamal Hasan 'Ali who received him today.

It is worth noting that the Kuala Lumpur conference will be within the framework of five regional conferences to be held on five continents to discuss the Palestinain issue preparatory to the Paris international conference on the Palestinian issue which is to convene at the UNESCO headquarters in August under UN supervision.

Iranian Battle Losses Reported 17-18 April

Communique No 1,065

JN181622 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,065 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 18 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The forces of Saddam's immortal Al-Qadisiyah are continuing their valiant activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the criminal and suspect Khomeyniite regime in order to safeguard the honor of great Iraq, the might of the brave Iraqi men, and the aspirations and prosperous future of the glorious Arab nation. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force belonging to one of our forward units raided the enemy positions opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing six and wounding others.

2. One was killed and three vehicles were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

3. One infantry position east of Basra was destroyed and its occupants were killed.

4. Today the vile Iranian regime continued its artillery shelling of Basra and Mandali and their outskirts, killing two civilians and wounding three others in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 April 1983

14,982 Killed in Battles

JN181848 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] A military spokesman has made the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people, O gallant men in our armed forces, O sons of the glorious Arab nation: The invading aggressors were defeated and fled the battlefield, leaving behind their dead, their weapons, and theirequipment littering the valleys and plains east of Maysan after daring to attack our heroic units on the night of 10 April. Iraq's glorious sons confronted them and recorded two great epics in the At-Tib battle in the Nasr forces' sector and in the Faqih battle in the Abu 'Ubaydah forces' sector. The Iraqis were, in these two battles, great knights defending their homeland, honor, and holy places. They taught the spiteful enemy new lessons in courage and audacity by killing, wounding, or capturing the enemy forces. The counted enemy's total losses in the period from 10 April to 17 April amounted to 14,982 killed, a large number wounded, hundreds captured, and 41 tanks, 32 armored personnel carriers, 40 vehicles of various types, and 9 artillery pieces destroyed and large quantities of serviceable light and meium weapons and military equipment seized.

Congratulation to our great people and our heroic Armed Forces and our glorious Arab nation on this victory over the forces of tyranny and aggression. Let the Iraqi flag remain hoisted, Iraqi honor safeguarded, and the Iraqi heroic leader, Saddam Husayn, hold his head high. Disgrace and shame to the Tehran rulers and Qom henchmen. Victory is only granted by God.

18 April 1983

Retaliation for Iranian Shelling

JN181946 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1928 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Text] A military spokesman has made the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Despite the repeated warnings to the Iranian rulers against shelling peaceful Iraqi cities, and since the return of our Armed Forces to the international borders, the Iranian rulers have continued to perpetrate heinous crimes against defenseless civilians by shelling the Iraqi cities that are within the range of their artillery fire. The latest crime perpetrated in this regard was today's shelling of Basra and Mandali and their outskirts. It is as if by continuing these bombings, they are holding our repeated warnings in contempt.

Therefore, in harmony with our right to defend ourselves and preserve our people's security, we have decided to reply strongly to this criminal action. The Tehran rulers alone are responsible for this to God, the Iranian people, and public opinion. God is great.

18 April 1983

RCC Approves Islamic Conference Resolution

JN181850 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] A Revolution Command Council [RCC] spokesman has made the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The RCC held a meeting today, 5 Rajab 1403 Hegira [18 April 1983], during which it studied the resolution issued by the Popular Islamic Conference in Baghdad and in which the conference called on the Iraqi and Iranian leaderships to immediately cease fire and return to their international borders.

In confirmation of what RCC Chairman President Saddam Husayn announced in his speech at the conference on 3 Rajab 1403 Hegira [16 April 1983], regarding Iraq's advance agreement to all that the conference decides, the RCC decided to agree to the said resolution, which was issued by the Popular Islamic Conference, and to express Iraq's readiness to immediately put it into practice as soon as the Iranian Government announces that it agrees to it.

The RCC stressed its pride in the gracious efforts exerted by the participants in the Popular Islamic Conference and welcomed all the resolutions adopted by it. It also expressed Iraq's readiness to work for the implementation of these resolutions and stressed Iraq's complete readiness to cooperate with the follow-up committee and the peace and reconciliation committee which were formed by the Conference to implement these resolutions.

Saudi Envoy Arrives in Baghdad With Message

JN191016 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) — A personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from his brother His Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia arrived here at noon today. The envoy, Minister of Edcuation Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, told INA that he is carrying a written message to the president from the Saudi monarch dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries. The Saudi envoy was received by Education Minister 'Abd al-Qadir 'Izz ad-Din, the chief of protocol, the director of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Iraq Agrees To Attend Meeting on Oil Slick

JN191134 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Apr (INA) — Iraqi Ambassador in Kuwait 'Abd al-Jabbar 'Umar Ghani has declared that Iraq has responded positively to Oman's offer to host the meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment to combat the oil slick polluting Arab Gulf waters.

In press statements today, the Iraqi ambassador said that Iraq's consent to attend the meeting proceeds from its fraternal cooperation with the brothers in the Arab Gulf region to combat this slick and to abort all attempts to drive a wedge among the brothers.

He said that in the past week Iraq had approved all the working papers submitted during the organization's meetings in Kuwait, adding that these papers were rejected due to Iran's obdurate position.

Oman today called for the meeting to discuss all means possible to cap the Nowruz oilfield and combat the oil slick in Arab Gulf waters.

King Receives Lebanese Defense Minister

JN181847 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today Lebanese Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri, who gave his majesty an oral message from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the situation in Lebanon in light of the current negotiations to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanon and reviewed relations of brotherhood and cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

AR-RA'Y Comments on U.S. Embassy Explosion

JN190840 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Certainly, It Is Israel's Hands," the newspaper AR-RA'Y says: The bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, which left dozens of dead and wounded, is one of the tragic incidents being witnessed in the Lebanese arena. This incident not only arouses disgust, but also has several interpretations. It is obvious that the perpetrators of the crime wanted to underscore a particular viewpoint:

1. That the Lebanese authority is unable to control the heart of the capital itself.

2. That the multinational force is useless and incapable of safeguarding stability there.

3. That the role played by the United States in the Lebanese arena is costly and tends to harm Lebanon and inflict heavy losses on its citizens.

4. That they are able to accuse any imaginary Arab side in order to distort the Arab image before U.S. public opinion.

AR-RA'Y adds: In light of this, it is obvious that Israel stands to gain from this incident because it constitutes a way for Israel to prove its viewpoint — which casts doubt on the ability of the Lebanese authority and the multinational forces and that opposes the U.S. role in trying to evacuate the Israeli forces from Lebanon. Israel is also trying to incite U.S. public opinion against the Arabs. Needless to say, Israel's hand, which is used to committing or instigating the ugliest crimes to serve its evil interests, would not be deterred from practicing the same method against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. Terrorism was and still is a distinctive characteristic of Israeli methods, even toward its friends. AR-RA'Y concludes: Therefore, this incident stresses the need for proving U.S. credibility in Lebanon without fearing terrorism in any form. There is no doubt that Israel wants to exploit the results of the incident to abort the peace process undertaken by the United States in the region by putting more obstacles in front of the anticipated soundness of U.S. credibility in Lebanon even though these obstacles are represented by the debris and victims of the U.S. Embassy.

JORDAN TIMES Praises Reagan Statement on Golan

JN190855 AMMAN JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Apr 83 p 4

[Unattributed commentary: "Viability or Bust"]

[Text] Ronald "V ability Is My Middle Name" Reagan is showing signs of wanting to live up to his middle name. You will recall, friends, that shortly after Mr. Reagan launched his Middle East peace initiative with his speech of September 1, 1982, he said that if a "viable" Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team stepped forward there would be a good chance of progress towards peace. We said at that time that Mr. Reagan was trying to camouflage the weakness of the American position by putting the onus for peace on the Arabs, and specifically on a Jordanian-Palestinian position.

Well, to and behold! What has Mr. Reagan done this week? He has sent a message to the Syrian president stating, among other things, that the United States wishes to indicate that the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights should be returned to Syria one day as part of an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. So what, you ask?

One of the deficiencies of the Reagan initiative has been the lack of precision on how it relates to Syrian concerns, particularly the status of the Golan. The reference in the September 1 speech to the fact that the United States believed the provisions of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 applied to all fronts should have covered this, but obviously a more more explicit reference was needed. Very rationally, Mr. Reagan has now provided this. What he is doing in fact, is starting to tighten up those parts of the Reagan initiative that have drawn criticism from the Arabs. This is a wise and reasonable thing for Mr. Reagan to do. He should be encouraged to continue on this route. Who knows, maybe one day he will have a really viable initiative, and a really honest dialogue could be initiated between the United States and the Arabs, leading perhaps to serious negotiations with Israel about peace. When the United States flirts with reason and flashes tempting signs of logic, all sorts of things become possible, even likely. Keep it up, Ron. After all, what's an initiative without some viability?

Correction to 13 Apr AR-RA'Y Jordan Policy Report

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "AR-RA'Y: No Changes Expected in Jordan's Policy," published in the 14 April Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, page F 1, last paragraph, last line:

...to confront the challenges with manliness and honor. (end of item; deleting garbled last line)

Further Reportage on Beirut U.S. Embassay Bombing

Rescue Operations Continuing

NC191020 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 19 (AFP) — The death toll in yesterday's bomb blast at the U.S. Embassy here stood between 30 and 40 today, but was feared to go higher with at least 20 missing — buried beneath the rubble according to Marine Colonel James Mead, commanding the U.S. contingent in the city's international peacekeeping force.

Unconfirmed reports said that 24 people, including 12 Americans, were in the embassy cafeteria alone at the time of the blast, and were still missing.

One rescue worker said that 12 Lebanese police, in an office on the ground floor, were also listed missing today.

Five Americans civilians and six U.S. Marines are among the dead, according to latest reports. A further 21 Americans were believed to be among the almost 100 people injured according to unofficial counts. The blast destroyed the consular section, crowded with visa applicants.

Rescue work continued throughout the night, illuminated by two huge lights installed by the Marines who this morning planted an American flag in front of the building. Two mechanical excavators removed rubble that was later searched by rescue workers, one of whom reported that two bodies were found overnight.

Colonel Mead told journalists that U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon, who escaped with minor wounds, would hold a meeting later today with personnel officials. He said the activities of the embassy were continuing but he did not specify where.

The colonel, who refused to link the blast to recent attacks here on units of the international force, said the morale of the U.S. troops was high and that the troops would continue their mission in the city.

Rescue workers, many of whom wore sanitary masks, had set up a tent near the embassy to provide immediate treatment for survivors. Two ambulances were also in place to transport victims to Beirut hospitals.

Inside the remains of the building, U.S. officials were seen removing documents.

Lebanese television identified two injured Americans as Harold Roberts, secretary to special Mideast envoy Philip Habib and John Read, the embassy press attache.

It also reported that the senior A.I.D. official in Lebanon, William McIntyre, was among the dead Americans.

Provisional Death Toll

NC191125 Paris AFP in English 1121 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Beirut, April 19 (AFP) — At least 70 people are dead or missing following yesterday's bomb blast at the U.S. Embassy here, it was feared today.

The provisional death toll stood between 30 and 40, with almost 100 injured.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon told the press today that some 48 people were missing, believed to be buried under the rubble.

Source on Casualty Toll

NC190652 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Excerpt] In a contact just before we came into the studio, a security source informed us that, up to 0100 [2300 GMT 18 April] yesterday, the number of victims who were claimed by the criminal explosion in the American Embassy building in Beirut yesterday totalled 27 dead and 70 wounded.

The security source said: Since that time, that is, 0100, no other bodies have been removed, although rescue operations and the search for further victimis have continued throughout the night by lamplight.

The security source added: The investigation has also shown that the tragic incident occurred when a Rover GMC broke throught the embassy's northern entrance. The car was laden with 150-kilograms of (exogene). It carried a false diplomatic number plate. The car was detonated just 5 seconds after it had entered the embassy compound.

Rescue Security Increased

NC191038 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has received the following new information about the crime of blasting the U.S. Embassy in Beirut:

The Lebanese Army Forces, Marines, and Internal Security Forces have cut the roads leading to the U.S. Embassy in a 1 kilometer circumference. All citizens and Arab and foreign diplomats have been prevented from approaching the embassy. The only exception are the embassy staff and personnel who hold passes authorizing them to enter the area.

Our radio correspondent reports that members of the Civil Defense, (Ojer) Lebanon, Lebanese Red Cross, U.S. Marines, and Lebanese Army are participating in removing the rubble and giving various kinds of aid. Two members of public security and two others of the Internal Security Forces are missing.

The bodies of a female U.S. official and a Lebanese official have been removed.

Commander of the U.S. Marines General Mead is personally supervising the rescue operations. He was quoted as saying that he believes that 20 to 25 persons are still under the rubble.

Our correspondent adds that the (Quddus) hotel near the U.S. Embassy has been turned into rooms accommodating the embassy's diplomats and its officials. One room has been supplied with communication means such as telephones and wireless apparatus.

We have learned that most of the embassies in the capital have adopted stringent security measures. The Lebanese security forces have set up roadblocks in the various parts of the capital. These forces examine identity cards in search of suspect persons.

The rescue teams are trying to make holes into the rubble. Using loudspeakers they broadcast what they see in French, English, and Arabic. It has been reported that repugnant smells emanate from the embassy's restaurant.

Commenting on the attack against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Ash-Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din said: We strongly denounce the tragic and serious incident to which the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has been subjected and which led to the death of many innocent Lebanese and other victims. This incident aimed to hamper the salvation march in Lebanon and to create an atmosphere of doubt and reluctance in world public opinion and international decision-making centers regarding the determination of the Lebanese people and president to continue the salvation operation. We hope that this tragic and serious incident will not affect the determination of all those concerned with solving the Lebanese crisis and the continuation of their efforts to the liberate Lebanon and safeguard its safety and sovereignty. We express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the relatives of the Lebanese, American, and other victims, and we wish the wounded and injured quick recovery.

Reaction to Attack on United States Embassy

Al-Jumayyil Cables Reagan

NC181804 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has inspected the U.S. Embassy building. He drove a car there and then supervised the rescue operations and gave the necessary directives to speed up the work to rescue the victims and the injured.

Upon his return to the Presidential Palace, President al-Jumayyil sent a cable to U.S. President Reagan expressing condolences over those who died for the sake of fulfilling the mission of security, peace, and stability in Lebanon and the Middle East.

President al-Jumayyil's cable said:

The criminal act committed against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut at noon today has shocked me deeply. For the past 8 years, foreign elements have sought to turn our peaceful country into a stage for the warring forces in the Middle East which brought with them death and destruction. Your efforts to save Lebanon from these forces and to restore peace and stability to its people have harmed those who thrive on anarchy and violence. The cross of peace is the burden of the courageous. I am confident that your bold initiative will continue despite the attempts at blackmail and threats. Those who are responsible for this crime have joined in death innocent Lebanese and U.S. citizens and have strengthened our two countries' resolve to continue to work jointly to restore unity, freedom, and independence to this tormented land.

In my name and in the name of the Lebanese people, I convey to you and to the families of the U.S. victims my most sincere condolences and pray that this cowardly act will be the last criminal act on our land. I also hope that the memory of the innocent victims who have fallen will motivate all of us to intensify our efforts for restoring sovereignty, humanity,and peace to this nation.

Salim Denounces Attack

NC181744 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim this afternoon issued the following statement: The criminal attack on the U.S. Embassy at noon today not only brings about deep pain but also is a cause for revulsion, condemnation, and denunciation because it was directed against the mission of a friendly big country and resulted in innocent Lebanese and American victims and because it aims at frustrating the good efforts being exerted by the United States for the restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon and for the establishment of its sovereignty and authority over all its territory.

It is a cause of grief that this dear country should lose the blood of its sons while it is trying to dress Lebanon's wounds. We are confident that today's crime will not deflect Washington's firm determination to continue its great efforts and its effective activity to help Lebanon regain its health.

Lebanon shares the grief of the families of the victims and expresses its profound sorrow for this criminal act. There is a determination today, more than at any time before, to continue the march which was accepted by Lebanon's people and government to put a end to its ordeal, despite the tragedies and difficulties facing this march. It still believes that the friendly countries, led by the United States, will continue their support for it in this regard.

Salim Cables Shultz

NC181843 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Salim sent a cable to his U.S. counterpart George Shultz. In the cable he denounced the criminal act which he believes is aimed at weakening the U.S. and Lebanese determination to restore peace and unity. He expressed his confidence that this shock will founder before the resolve and good will which men of Shultz' caliber enjoy. In his cable to Shultz, Salim stressed that the souls of the victims will not be in vain.

Al-Wazzan Denounces Attack

NC181928 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] At 1830 today, Prime Minister al-Wazzan chaired a meeting of the internal security council held in his office in the Government Palace. The meeting was attended by Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, Director General of the Internal Security Forces Staff Brigadier General 'Uthman 'Uthman, Director General of Public Security Zahi Bustani, Beirut Police Commander Colonel 'Umar Makhzuni, Public Prosecuter at the Court of Cessation Shaykh Camille Ja'Ja', Interior Ministry Director General Samih as-Sulh, and Beirut Governor Mitri an-Nammar. The meeting was held to review the security situation in general, and the U.S. Embassy explosion at noon today in particular, and the measures which can be taken in this regard.

The meeting ended a short while ago. Prime Minister al-Wazzan made the following statement:

[Begin recording] First, I must strongly denounce this incident, especially since it also resulted in the death of many innocent Lebanese and non-Lebanese people who had nothing to do with what happened and with the aims, which may be many as a result of this incident [sentence as heard].

We are extremely pained that this should take place under circumstances in which we are all cooperating at home and at a time when we are closing our ranks to face this fateful situation in Lebanon, at a time when we are calling on the world to stand by us, and at a time when we are mobilizing all those who can extend a hand and share in the salvation.

Such an action not only demands denunciation by us but much more than denunciation. Our homeland, which I said is calling on everyone to share with it in the salvation, did not expect this blow to be directed against the efforts which we are exerting and against the picture which we want to paint before the world and before the friends, brothers, and the Lebanese themselves.

Let us leave [words indistinct]. Let everyone be sure that we shall continue on our path, because we believe in this homeland, believe in our people, believe that we are struggling for a just issue. We shall not let this blow stop us from continuing our path and completing the salvation of our homeland. We are seeking quiet, we are seeking stability, we are seeking salvation, we are seeking salvation from the Israeli occupation. We are seeking to ensure Lebanon's complete sovereignty over its territory. We are working according to the facts available to us and according to a visualization which we as Lebanese have agreed upon and are trying sincerely and energetically to impress on all brothers and friends. We are in contact with everyone to keep them informed about what we are doing. Therefore, we are confident that we are on our way to saving the homeland.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, the incident came in the wake of an attack against the French contingent and the Marines. Can we link what happened today with yesterday's events?

[Al-Wazzan] We think that any disturbance of security and any attack on any force that helps to ensure salvation for Lebanon constitute a blow to Lebanon itself. Therefore, we place these before their responsibilities. They are before [word indistinct], before the eyes of the Lebanese.

In this internal security council meeting we adopted some measures and arrangements. The threads which we have in our hands make us confident that eventually we shall identify those who did what they did and are preparing what they are preparing. [end recording]

Major Haddad Comments

NC190632 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0550 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Last night, Major Sa'd Haddad made a statement which said concerning the destruction of the American Embassy that he denounces this savage action as he always condemns any such [word indistinct] action. And he offered his condolences to the families and relatives of the victims of the bombing. He also wished a speedy recovery to the wounded.

Maj Haddad said that he wished the administration would understand that their military presence in Lebanon will involve the Americans like Vietnam against the fanatic Muslims and communists. He finally advises that the American military leave Lebanon and let Lebanese solve their own problems, adding that he was sure the Lebanese can come up with the right decision.

Lebanese Forces Command Council

NC181942 [Clandestine] Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Commenting on the attack, the official spokesman for the Lebanese forces made the following statement:

While vehemently denouncing the atrocious criminal and terrorist act that was committed by the sinful hands against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in which many innocent Americans and Lebanese have fallen victim, the Lebanese Forces Command Council extends sincere condolences to the U.S. Government and people and personally to the U.S. ambassador in Beirut, Robert Dillon, and to all the families of the victims and expresses its solidarity with them and its denunciation of this cowardly act.

The Command Council would like to draw the attention of the U.S. Government and people and world public opinion to the following:

1. The goal of this action is to blackmail and intimidate the honest and courageous U.S. stand which supports Lebanon and the Lebanese legitimate authority. This action is part of the recurring terrorist operations against all the states participating in the multinational forces to make them withdraw their forces from Lebanon.

2. The aim of these operations is to compel the U.S. officials to abandon their concern and commitment to rescue Lebanon from the clutches of the occupier so that Lebanon will again become,

as it was before 1982, a fertile ground for occupation and a center for international terrorism, the price of whose ouster from Beirut and the south was paid by the Lebanese who are assiduously working to oust it from the rest of Lebanon.

3. Making greater Beirut appear anew as a center that lacks security and in which terrorism thrives is an attempt to abort the experiment of giving the security to the legitimate forces. Therefore, this attempt must be countered by giving more support to the Lebanese Army and increasing the number of the multinational forces and expanding their duties. This will surely prevent those who are irritated by the constructive U.S. role and who reject the presence of the multinational forces from succeeding in again monopolizing Lebanon and turning it into an arena for their influence, and for settling old scores and in dictating their terms for resolving the problems of the area. These people are employing all forms of terrorism and fanaticism to prevent Lebanon from playing its illuminating and effective cultural role in the service of peace and stability in the area.

4. While praising the quick action taken by the Lebanese authorities, the Lebanese Forces Command Council calls on the authorities to act firmly and to reveal all the threads connected with this operation so as to expose the intentions that are being harbored for Lebanon by the hostile forces which do not wish stability and sovereignty for Lebanon and which are employing all the means and the local tools they have to carry out their plans.

Possible Israeli Involvement

LD191105 Kuwait KUNA in English 1016 gmt 19 apr 83

[By Imad Ajami]

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 19 (KUNA) — A Western diplomat, whose country donates troops to the multinational peacekeeping force here, Tuesday raised the question as to "whether Israel is behind" the booby-trapped car blast at the U.S. Embassy offices. The diplomat, who refused to be identified, noted that such a blast serves "numerous Israeli goals, at least in blocking the U.S.-sponsored negotiations between Lebanon and the Jewish state" on withdrawal of the Israeli army and all other foreign forces from the war-plagued 10,452-square-kilometer country.

Such a blast, the diplomat noted, may also serve another Israeli objective "through guiding the U.S. public opinion into pressuring the administration to pull out its troops serving with the MNF in Beirut."

The MNF groups contingents from the U.S., France, Italy and Britain.

Meanwhile, a definite death count hasn't been released by the Lebanese police department on the embassy blast.

Military Preparations Continue in Al-Biqa'

NC190704 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Tension prevails in the Al-Biqa' area. The Syrians and Israelis have reinforced their positions. Dozens of Israeli tanks have been seen leaving their camps, which are far from the defense front, and are heading toward the contact lines despite the bad weather.

It has been reported that Israel has placed its military forces along the border in a state of preparedness to deal with any eventuality. Israeli forces have started diggings in the western side of Mount Hermon.

As-Sayigh On Netanya Opening Session 19 April

NC191057 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1006 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Dispatch by Voice of Lebanon correspondent in Netanya]

[Text] This is the Voice of Lebanon speaking to you directly from Netanya to transmit to you live whatever information the official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, will give about the first session of the negotiations:

[As-Sayigh] The general committee held a meeting today. The beginning of this meeting was expected to be devoted to the criminal attack against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut yesterday. The heads of the three delegations delivered speeches on the occasion. They not only expressed their sorrow and condemnation of the incident but also their determination to continue work in order to attain the goals which are expected to be included in the agreement.

Dr Fattal, the leader of the Lebanese delegation, said: There is nothing easier than terrorism as a means and a weapon, but it is not an effective weapon in the long run. He added: We are more determined than ever to continue our work.

Following this, it was decided to group the committees into two committees along the pattern which was followed in the past 2 weeks. These are a military committee and a political committee. The political committee bgan studying some of the provisions which are still the subject of disagreement. The military committee will study all the security issues with which it dealt before and which are still the subject of disagreement. [end As-Sayigh statement]

We have been with Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, the official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, who provided us with information about the first session of the negotiations.

Avi Pazner, the spokesman of the Israeli delegation, declared that today's negotiations in Netanya were devoted to the resumption of the study of questions which were previously discussed.

David Kimche, the leader of the Israeli delegation, opened the session by condemning the action, which he described as cowardly, against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. This cowardly action,

Kimche said, was carried out by extremist elements in order to shake Lebanon and keep it an area of terrorism. Kimche added: We are happy that President Reagan has emphasized the continuation of the U.S. initiative. The extremist elements, and those backing them, not only want to shake Lebanon but also want to establish centers of terrorism in Beirut and in the south. The terrorists, Kimche went on, are trying to regain the centers which they lost in Beirut. Therefore, we are continuing the negotiations to reach an agreement and cooperation on uprooting the terrorist beast which is threatening all of us.

This is the Voice of Lebanon from Netanya. Back to Beirut.

Mashariqah Evacuation Day Speech 17 April

JN172130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1413 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Speech given by Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, at a speech rally held at Damascus University auditorium on 17 April to mark the 37th anniversary of Syrian Evacuation Day — live]

[Excerpts] Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, delivered a speech on behalf of President Hafiz al-Asad at the rally. He said: Comrades, brother citizens, today we are celebrating Evacuation Day, the evacuation of foreign colonialists from the homeland, just as we do every year. Our celebration of this immortal national anniversary is a glorification of the bitter struggle of our proud masses to achieve freedom. This also celebrates the struggle that recorded marvelous epics and unique heroism to achieve independence. It is also an immortalization of the great sacrifices they made while fighting the intruding French colonialists, resisting with every available means.

Mashariqah said: After the evacuation, our great Ba'th Party was born to affirm the meaning of the homeland's freedom and national independence in every respect, not only as far as Syria is concerned, but also as far as every Arab country that suffered from occupation is concerned. Since the birth of the party, it has endeavored to struggle for all Arab causes and freedom. He said that the Ba'th Party represents the nation's conscience, will, and determination, and is the sole heir of the struggle of our ancestors and the guardian of the values and ideals of the Arab nation. The Ba'th Party has continued its march since its birth and produced the 8 March revolution to achieve the complete national, political, economic, military, and educational independence, to lead the struggle of the masses, express their aspirations, and endeavor to achieve their objectives: unity, freedom, and socialism. After the birth of the corrective movement, which was led by struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, work in the fields of construction and liberation escalated. Syria resembled a gigantic building site where hundreds of industrial, agricultural, and educational projects as well as several other projects were carried out. Building on the domestic level was accompanied by serious endeavors to prepare for the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of usurped rights, foremost of which are the rights of our Palestinian people to return, self-determination, the establishment of their independent homeland , and the confrontation of U.S. imperialism and racist Zionist schemes that aim at dominating the Arab region and placing it under imperialist-Zionist influence.

During the Tishrin war of independence, the Golan and Mount Heron war, that took place in 1973, the heroic confrontation and honorable fighting in Lebanon against the barbaric Zionist aggression in June, 1982, our valiant soldiers and armed forces alone defended the honor, pride, dignity, and rights of the Arab nation. Our masses continue their struggling march, the march of progress, socialism, steadfastness, and confrontation under Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, leader of the Arab nation's march on the road of victory and liberation. They continue their march to achieve the Arab nation's aspiration to establish a solid material foundation for steadfastness and confrontation, to attain a strategic balance between Syria and the Zionist enemy, to confront the conspiratorial schemes of the imperialists and racist Zionists against the steadfastness of our country and people, to confront their repeated threats which have recently escalated under the pretext that Syria's reinforcement of its defensive capabilities threatens the Zionist enemy's security, and to confront their premeditated aggression against Syria. Our steadfast and struggler masses will reply decisively and firmly to the aggressors. Syria will not surrender or bow, and the enemy will not triumph in the end. We are not alone in the battle. World liberation and progress forces, led by the socialist bloc states — foremost of which is the USSR — support the just cause of our struggle.

Comrades, brothers, successive events and the current political situation confirm the soundness of our principles and positions on our various national issues, particularly the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of usurped rights. The will of steadfastness and confrontation and the will to liberate, to fight, and to continue the struggle are sufficent to make the Arab cause triumph and to end the Zionist occupation of the Arab territories. All occupation forces will be defeated — this is dictated by history, because nations will struggle and make sacrifices for their cause.

Syria's position on the conspiracies against the principal Arab cause, — the Palestine issue — is a principled and firm one based on the rejection of all capitulatory and liquidatory solutions. This solid position relies on the struggler masses, the nationalist and progressive forces, and the Ba'th Party strugglers. Steadfastness and confrontation and the will to liberate and continue the struggle will enable the masses to triumph over the usurper in the end, regardless of the gap that separates the powers, and as long as the masses are determined to liberate their land and regain their rights. The Palestinian issue is not a card that can be drawn or given, but the issue of a people and a homeland. Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad has said: We will not squander or bargain with it. We will not allow anyone to squander it.

Mashariqah said: We have unlimited confidence in the Palestinian strugglers. Just as our Arab people in occupied Palestine — men, women, and children — have resisted and fought Zionist occupation with sticks and stones, the Palestinian strugglers, who were evicted from their Palestine, their homeland, have confronted the liquidatory schemes over past years. They foiled the latest liquidatory scheme when they refused to concede the rights they acquired through blood and struggle. They insisted on the right of the PLO to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and they foiled the plan of giving a mandate to King Husayn. They rejected Reagan's plan and decided to continue the struggle to regain their rights to their homeland, Palestine.

He said: Brothers, the evacuation anniversary expresses the true meaning of struggle. Although Syria was the first Arab country to liberate its land and expel the foreign colonialists in 1946, it considers its true national day, the actual evacuation day, the day when the whole of Palestine is liberated from the desecration of Zionist occupation. Thus, Syria will continue its untiring struggle under Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, leader of the Arab

nation's march on the road to victory and liberation. Syria promises the Arab masses and the free people of the world to continue the struggle until the foreign Zionist occupiers are expelled from Palestine. This is a pan-Arab committment, the pledge of free men and revolutionaries, and a strategic and fateful commitment regardless of the high costs and sacrifices. The real day is the day when the foreign Zionist colonialists depart from southern Syria, from Palestine. Greetings to our martyrs who sacrificed for independence and to our martyrs in every position of struggle. Greetings to our steadfast kinfolk in the Golan, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Haifa, Yaffo, Galilee, and all parts of Palestine. Greetings for their steadfastness and confrontation toward the Zionist occupiers and for their struggle for independence.

Greetings to the valiant Lebanese nationalist resistance, which is confronting the Zionist occupier efficiently and effectively. Greetings to our valiant Armed Forces, the shield that defends the homeland against occupiers and aggressors. Greetings to the world progress and liberation forces led by the socialist bloc states — foremost of which is the friendly USSR — for their support of the just cause of our struggle. Greetings to our great Ba'th Party and its Secretary Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad, hero of the two Tishrin battles, the champion of steadfastness and confrontation, the hope of the Arab nation in achieving the great evacuation, the evacuation of the racist Zionist occupiers from every grain of occupied Arab territory and from the pure soil of Palestine. May God's peace be with you.

Deputy Defense Minister Leaves for Moscow

JN181420 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] The Syrian deputy defense minister left Damascus for Moscow today on a 10-day official visit to the USSR.

Reaction to Beirut U.S. Embassy Disaster

Prime Minister's Office

TA190643 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Israeli-Lebanese talks will take place in Netanya as scheduled this morning in order to make it clear that no terrorist act will deter the negotiating parties from continuing the talks. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel heard this this morning from the Foreign Ministry's spokesman.

The prime minister's office reacted to the terrorist act in Beirut by saying that the acts of mad elements are the reason why Israel, which has had bitter experience in this sphere, must insist on matters vital for the survival and well-being of its citizens. Here is Frankel's report:

[Begin Frankel recording] The terrorist act in Beirut will give Washington as another good reason to speed up the talks toward an agreement in Lebanon. This is the assessment by political circles. It is hoped in Jerusalem that because of this incident, the United States will acknowledge the justness of Israel's demands [derishoteha] regarding the security arrangements.

It was announced by the prime minister's office that the disaster must serve as a reminder to all well-meaning people in the world that there are different rules to the game in the Middle East. It should be mentioned that experience has taught us that when the United States wants to accelerate the negotiations it usually applies pressure to Israel. Israeli officials who have maintained contacts with U.S. diplomats over the last 24 hours report a deep shock. Nevertheless, despite the terrorist act, the talks in Netanya will continue today as planned. The Foreign Ministry's spokesman said this morning it should be proven to the world that no terrorist act will deter the parties from reaching an agreement.

As for the negotiations themselves, it appears that Philip Habib's talks here over the last weekend have not led to real progress on the major bone of contention — the last one perhaps — which is that of Major Sa'd Haddad's status. Lebanon claims it has reached the limit of its concessions, and so does Israel. If the Lebanese position does not change, it seems that the political echelon in Israel — or to be more precise the prime minister and Ministers Shamir and Arens — will this week have to decide whether to soften positions or to insist on the demand [derisha] that Haddad be appointed commander of the brigade in the south, thus returning to a period of deadlock in the political negotiations.

There is an alternative of course: Ministers Uzan and Ben-Porat have recently submitted to the government's secretariat an official proposal for the IDF'S withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River line, which is the border of the security zone in the south. This proposal is not new. It has been rejected in the past, and if it is discussed again now it will probably be rejected again. In Jerusalem's experience though, ideas for a unilateral Israeli move, although they arouse grave fears in Beirut and Washington, help achieve progress in the talks. Political sources thus account for the softening in the Lebanese position in recent weeks.

In the weekly Cabinet meeting today, the foreign minister will relate the developments in the negotiations in the past week, and the defense minister will relate U.S. consent to cooperate in the Lavi aircraft production. This is viewed in Jerusalem as a sign of reconciliation from Washington after a long period of strain in the bilateral relations. [end recording]

Shamir Comments

TA190644 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The lesson from the Beirut disaster is simple, as far as Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is concerned; the security problems in Lebanon are still grave, and the terrorist organizations continue to be active:

[Begin Shamir recording] We all regret casualties and the loss of human lives. This is very regrettable and even shocking. However, nothing in Lebanon is surprising. I think that the lesson is simple and clear. The security problems in Lebanon are still very grave and terrorist organizations continue tooperate there, sometimes with great success, such as in the present case. I think that all those elements who want the liquidation of terrorism and the establishment of peace and stability in Lebanon should cooperate. This should find its expression also in the negotiations underway today between Israel and Lebanon with the participation of the U.S. representatives. One of the major issues in these negotiations is, after all, guaranteeing security. [end recording]

Ambassador Lewis Interviewed

TA181839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] The bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut cast a shadow over President Navon's Independence Day reception for the diplomatic corps at his residence in Jerusalem. In this interview, American Ambassador Samuel Lewis extends his greetings to the people of Israel on Independence Day, and also discusses the bombing with reporter David Essing.

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Certainly, we hope that the 36th year will be a peaceful one. It didn't get off from our point of view to a very good start today with the tragic bombing of our embassy in Beirut. But these events are ones which we all have to learn to overcome. Israel has made fantastic achievements in its 35 years, and I'm sure that in the 35 years and more that lie ahead this great state will make many more strides in the direction of its goals as a modern state and peace with all its neighbors.

[Question] Will this deter the American peace effort in the Middle East in any way, this bombing of your embassy in Beirut?

[Answer] No, I feel quite sure it will not.

[Question] Have Israeli officials offered their help in any way to help with the injured and so forth?

[Answer] Of course, we've had immediate expressions of shock

and condolence from all senior Israeli officials, and they've offered whatever assistance we may require. I understand that our Marine helicopter unit has been taking wounded out to the fleet and on to other destinations. The French multinational force is being very helpful, and they are responsible for the immediate area around the embassy. Everybody is offering whatever help we need, so I feel confident that we'll do what we can.

[Question] The fact that the United States has agreed to lend Israel technological knowhow for the Lavi — Do you think this ushers in an improvement in relations between Jerusalem and Washington?

[Answer] As I've said recently in other places, I believe that our relations are slowly warming again after a period of considerable chill. The decision to permit the American companies to provide this technology for the Lavi project is only one proof of that. I think that that trend will continue. I do believe that it is very important that we complete the negotiations for the Lebanon agreement with Israel and Lebanon as quickly as possible, and that once that's achieved the trend will accelerate.

[Question] Do you think we are on the verge of an agreement?

[Answer] I think we're close, but we still have at least one, and probably several big issues, still to resolve. So you can't put any timetable on it now. But we're pretty close. A lot of work still has to be done. [end recording]

Ben-Me'ir Comments

TA190723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir says that Israel welcomes President Reagan's announcement that the blast in Beirut will not deter the United States from the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. The attack on the U.S. Embassy demonstrated the situation against which Israel is struggling, Ben-Me'ir said. He expressed his condolences to the families who lost their members, and said that Israel's insistence on appropriate security arrangements will prevent suffering in the future.

He also said that Israel is concerned about the possibility that the Syrians will not evacuate Lebanon after an Israeli-Lebanese agreement is obtained. He said that Ambassador Habib continues to say that the Syrians will evacuate Lebanon.

Ben-Me'ir spoke at a Jerusalem meeting of the young leadership of the United Jewish Appeal.

Morning Press Editorials

TA180809 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0435 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Text] HATZOFE says that Israel's demands [derishot] regarding Lebanon today seem more justified in view of what happened in Beirut. The United States should support these demands and not encourage the Lebanese Government to oppose Israel's demands concerning matters of maintaining security in the region. The explosion in Beirut is part of a series of atrocities which have taken place in this country ever since the PLO took control of places there. The regime in Lebanon is far from being independent yet, and therefore it is surprising that the Lebanese Government insists on maintaining mere tokens of sovereignty on its border with Israel and decreasing the maintenance of sovereignty within the country itself.

HA'ARETZ says it is hard to get rid of the suspicion that it was Syrian intelligence w' ich planned the crime in Beirut. The paper adds that the U.S. formula regarding the exit of all foreign forces from Lebanon seems more problematic than ever. Even if the question of Major Sa'd Haddad's status is resolved as Israel desires, there is no certainty that President al-Asad will agree to fulfill his part of this formula. Under these circumstances it is possible to reach the conclusion that we will act wisely if we restrict the Israeli front and establish ourselves along a line which more or less matches the 45 km line north of the international border.

DAVAR says that just as after Bashir al-Jumayyil's murder in rather similar circumstances, the terrorist act against the U.S. Embassy in Beirut again reminds us how shaky all the Lebanese plans are. A single bomb, a single boobytrapped car, a single terrorist rioting manages to disrupt everything and return the planners to their tables and to their countries without achieving anything.

'AL HAMISHMAR writes that within a year Lebanon — especially the Palestinian problem in Lebanon — has turned into a first-rate problem for the world's well-being. Against the background of the dozens of burned and smothered bodies under the debris of the blasted embassy building in Beirut, the Israeli voices which still laud our great victory in the Lebanese war sound jarring and painful. On the occasion of the 35th Day of Independence of the State of Israel, which was unprecedently sad, everyone's prayer was that the war end, that this nightmare be over, and that the next year will be better than this past year of blood, fire, and tears.

HAMODI'A writes that the harsh statement by President Reagan in reaction to the blast at the U.S. Embassy building is understandable. This is indeed an atrocious act of madness. However, this is incompatible with the attitude and acts of the United States and the Western world toward the war Israel declared on terror and terrorists. Announcements such as President Reagan's will not deter terrorists from schemes. If everybody joined hands and contributed to eradicating the terrorists in the world, this would be more useful for safety in tense regions around the world than mere expressions of anger.

AL-ANBA' states that whoever said that since 1975 Lebanon is nothing but a quagmire full of blood rather than mud, was right.

THE JERUSALEM POST says that the entry into office of a new chief of staff other than Refa'el Eytan, just like Sharon's earlier replacement by a new defense minister, is received with a feeling of relief. As the paper puts it, the country never had a

chief of staff who was so insensitive to the limitations of his post, so pervaded with militaristic values, and so hostile to the liberal spirit of a democratic society as outgoing Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan.

Peace Talks To Continue Despite Embassy Blast

TA190607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, with U.S. participation, will resume in Netanya this morning after it was earlier reported they would be postponed due to the explosion in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

Political circles in Jerusalem told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that consultations were held last night with the U.S. representatives to the talks, and it was decided to renew them, thus demonstrating that terrorism will not deter the negotiating parties. It was decided that envoys Habib and Draper will arrive in Netanya. Earlier, the Americans had requested that the talks scheduled for this morning be postponed.

Talks Resume 19 April

TA190930 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Israeli-Lebanese negotiations with U.S. participation resumed a short while ago in Netanya. The U.S. delegation is headed by Morris Draper. He arrived from Beirut a short while before the talks began.

Upon arrival, he said that the United States is determined to reach an agreement in Lebanon as soon as possible. This is reported by our correspondent Me'ir Einstein.

Schiffer on Cabinet Meeting, IDF Changeover

TA191145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Interview in the studio with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer by an unidentified correspondent]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Let us start with the changeover ceremony of chiefs of staff. You were present at this ceremony, Shim'on.

[Schiffer] I was indeed present at this emotional but modest ceremony held in the hall next to the prime minister's office. The Cabinet members, IDF major generals, former chiefs of staff — including Yiga'el Yadin, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Hayim Bar-Lev — and family members of the new chief of staff gathered there. One person who was absent was Major GeneralAvigdor Ben-Gal, who did not get the chief of staff's position. Major General Dan Shomron did arrive.

Everyone waited for the prime minister, who entered with the outgoing chief of staff, Refa'el Eytan, and the incoming chief of staff, Moshe Levi. Speeches were delivered. The prime minister warmly praised the outgoing chief of staff, Refa'el Eytan, and later the rank was officially given to the new chief of staff. One of the ministers asked whether a ladder was brought, since the new chief of staff is so tall he had to bend to enable the prime minister to give him his insignia of rank. Following the ceremony the new, 12th chief of staff made a few remarks, and a toast concluded the short ceremony.

[Question] This is the ceremonial aspect of the meeting. Earlier, I assume, the Cabinet held a meeting under the shadow of the Beirut incident. What was discussed in the meeting?

[Answer] A shorter than usual meeting was held before the ceremony. The ministers heard surveys by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and by Defense Minister Moshe Arens about several political issues. It transpired today that Ministers Aharun Uzan and Mordekhay Ben-Porat, who had earlier announced they would raise before the Cabinet a suggestion that the IDF withdraw to the Al-'Awwali River in Lebanon, accepted Defense Minister Arens' request not to raise this suggestion today. The defense minister believes that such a proposal today will weaken our arguments in the negotiations with Lebanon. Minister Arens believes that the negotiations are proceeding well, and therefore asked them not to raise this proposal.

The ministers heard a review about the course of the negotiations and they too understood that the bone of contention today is Major Sa'd Haddad. The minister whose view deviated from that of the Cabinet was Communications Minister Tzipori, who told the Cabinet it was really Israel that created [yatzra] Maj Haddad, and therefore it should have no qualms of conscience if an arrangement is found whereby Maj Haddad will apparently be harmed. He stressed that the thing that should first concern Israel is its own security.

Ministers with whom I talked after the Cabinet meeting took the trouble to emphasize that this is not the Cabinet's position, and the prime minister, who summed up the short discussion on this issue, said one should not talk about the status of anybody, but rather about finding security arrangements which will guarantee that the PLO will not return.

As for the explosion in the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, this topic arose in the background of what was said. Both the foreign and defense ministers addressed themselves to this subject, saying that this incident only justifies Israel's arguments in its request and demand [baqashata uderishata] that security arrangements be found so as to guarantee that the situation existing before the Peace for Galilee campaign will not return. This incident at the U.S. Embassy only proves how shaky the state of security in that country is.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens briefed the ministers about developments connected with the U.S. announcement that it is today prepared to release for Israel's use the information necessary for the planning of the wing and control systems of the Lavi aircraft. Professor Moshe Arens views this as a first-rate political achievement. A discussion was not held on this issue today.

Another issue arising in the Cabinet meeting today was reference to the remarks published in the name of the finance minister

describing the energy minister as an ignoramus in everything connected with the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal. The Finance Ministry's announcements, as aired on Voice of Israel, said that the funds raised by the Israel bonds for the Mediterranean-Dead Sea canal were in fact used for other purposes. Several ministers, led by Minister Burg, expressed shock about these reports. The prime minister sharply condemned these announcements and informed the Cabinet that upon the return of Finance Minister Yoram Aridor from the United States, the Cabinet will hold a discussion on this issue.

These are the initial details learned about the Cabinet meeting.

False Bomb Scare in Tel Aviv U.S. Embassy
TA190954 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0950 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] A telephone threat by an unknown person was received in the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv concerning the planting of a bomb in the building. The embassy personnel combed the building, and it appeared that this was a false alarm.

Green Light on Lavi Said Given by Reagan
TA190757 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Excerpts] The decision by the U.S. to release technology requested by Israel on the Lavi warplane was made personally by President Ronald Reagan, who was forced to decide between the conflicting opinions of Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Shultz was for the sale; Weinberger vociferously opposed it. The National Security Council tended toward Shultz.

The decision was announced officially on Sunday.

THE JERUSALEM POST has learned from reliable sources that Shultz argued that it was important to indicate to Israel that the U.S. continued to support it, despite the administration's intense courting of moderate Arab states, primarily Jordan. It was also felt that the gesture would influence Israel's position at the Lebanese negotiations, where Israel perceives the U.S. as "unobjective" and actively engaged in encouraging the Lebanese into maximalist positions.

It was apparently the administration's assessment that if it continued to withhold the technology any longer, Israel would either downgrade the Lavi to conform with Israeli technological capabilities and attempt the project alone, or else enter into agreement with one of several European firms that have the advanced composite technology Israel needs.

The decision was delivered to Defence Minister Moshe Arens last week. It basically allows three American firms — General Dynamics, Vaught, and Grumman — to release studies conducted on Israel's behalf pertaining to various aspects of the Lavi. Two other firms were contacted on flight-control systems. Israel paid several million dollars for the studies, all three of which were supposed to have been released simultaneously last October. The release was dependent on approval from the State Department, and could only be given when various arms of government had sanctioned the transfer of the technology. Shultz added in his letter to Arens that Weinberger had consented to the go-ahead for the contracts.

Officials do not expect the second stage of the technology transfer to be problematic. "The Americans have made a decision in principle to allow the Lavi to go ahead, and it should flow evenly from now on," a senior source told THE POST last night.

Initially, Israel had hoped to be able to use some of the U.S. aid package to finance the project, but there is little hope that this will come about. By law, U.S. aid money has to be spent in the U.S.

'Poisoned' West Bank Girls Will Not Be Tried
TA151241 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Apr 83 p 3

[Report by Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria, in coordination with the security forces in the region, has decided not to put on trial the girls who pretended to be poisoined, although it has their confessions to having faked their sickness. In contrast, measures are already being adopted against those who aided in creating the panic.

It was explained yesterday that putting 14 to 16 year old girls on trial will create a new focus for reports in the world communications media. There is also a fear that reports will be disseminated that the confessions were extracted from the girls under threats and pressures, and then too the Israeli authorities will find themselves in a defensive position.

In consultations held this past week, it was decided to leave the girls be, but to adopt administrative measures against physicians, professional union activists, and students who incited and organized the incident, and also took care to oring it to the attention of foreign communications media.

It was reported that a list of such people has already been prepared. The measures adopted include preventing departure for Jordan, removal from public positions, compelling people to report to the police, or putting them under house arrest.

USSR Intelligence Ship Patrolling Northern Shore
TA150927 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Apr 83 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] A Soviet intelligence ship has lately been patrolling along Israel's coast in the northern region. In the past, too, Soviet intelligence ships occasionally patrolled along Israel's coasts. The present ship in question recently arrived in the region,apparently due to the tension prevailing between Israel and Syria, and the increased rumors about a possible military clash between Israel

and Syria. The ship at first sailed in the Cyprus area and later approached nearer the Israeli coast, but it refrains from entering the territorial waters of either Israel or Lebanon.

Public Has 'No Preference' for Begin Successor

TA190759 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Apr 83 p 3

[Report on JERUSALEM POST poll by political correspondent Sara Honig]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The public does not have a clear preference for a successor to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, according to the latest JERUSALEM POST poll. The poll also shows that a clear majority of public opinion feels that the influence of the religious parties is inordinately great and would like to see it limited.

The poll was conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute under the direction of Dr Sarah Shemer between March 15 and 23. A representative sample of 1,216 persons was interviewed.

Asked to name the man most suitable in Likud circles to succeed Begin, a large majority — 58.6 percent — had no preference. Of those, 15.8 percent said they "did not know" who the successor should be, 15.7 percent thought there is no one suitable to replace Begin, and 27.1 percent did not reply.

Among those named as a possible successor, Defence Minister Moshe Arens scored highest, with 7.9 percent. Just behind him were former Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi with 7.8 percent each.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was chosen by 6.3 percent and former Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman by 6 percent.

Asked how they perceive the role of religious political parties in Israeli life, 62.1 percent thought their influence greater than warranted by their number of Knesset seats. Their influence was thought commensurate with their Knesset strength by 14 percent, and too small by 8 percent. The feeling that the religious parties wield too great an influence was shared by a majority of both Likud (53.7 percent) and Alignment (82 percent) supporters.

In another question, the respondents were asked whether they would like an increase or decrease in the influence of the religious parties. A majority of 54 percent said they would like to see a drop in the power, 19 percent wanted it increased, and 24.9 percent preferred that it stay as it is.

ALGERIA

APS: Bendjedid Receives Message From Andropov

LD181602 Algiers APS in English 1439 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Algiers, 18/4/83 (APS) — Mr Lakhdar Brahimi [spelling as received], CC member, councillor at the presidency of the Republic, left Algiers today to the Saudi Arabia Kingdom, the Arabic Republic of Syria, and to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Mr Lakhdar Brahimi is bearing a message from the president of republic to his majesty the king, Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to President Hafiz al-Asad and the King of Jordan Husayn.

The president of the Republic received Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Executive Committee of the PLO.

Moreover, the president of the Republic received a message from Mr Yuriy Andropov, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, a message which deals with the present world situation especially in the evolution of the situation in Arab Maghreb.

APS Reports GDR Minister's Statement on Arrival

LD181907 Algiers APS in English 1434 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Algiers, 18/4/83 (APS) — Mr Guenther Kleiber, candidate member of the Politbureau of the German Democratic Republic Unified Socialist Party, deputy chairman of the Ministers Council, minister of general mechanical construction, construction of agricultural machines and vehicles, arrived here today.

He was welcomed at the airport by Mr Salim Saadi, CC member, minister of agriculture and agrarian revolution, accompanied with many high officials of the Agrarian Revolution Ministry as well as with Mr Shultz, deputy minister of general mechanical construction.The GDR's minister said his visit will help him explore with his Algerian counterparts, the means and ways to boost up the cooperation in the agricultural and heavy and light industry and the health [word indistinct] as well as the field of vocational training and trade.

Mr Guenther recalled that there exists a cooperation between Algeria and GDR in the field of agriculture and mechanical construction. The two countries, he further added, are cooperating in field of transfer of medical techniques, exchange of experts and medical staff.

The delegation's visit presided over by Guenther Kleiber will certainly help iron down difficulties linked to the slowness of some deliveries of the material imported by Algeria from GDR and put an end to the delays registered during the carrying out of some common projects in Algeria.

During his stay in Algeria, Mr Guenther Kleiber will have the opportunity to meet turn by turn for talks, the ministers of agriculture and agrarian revolution, of health and vocational training of trade and heavy and light industries.

SUDAN

Joint Sudan-YAR Meetings Held 16-18 Apr

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives

JN151931 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Apr (SUNA) — 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, minister of foreign affairs and member in the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress in the YAR, arrived here at noon today at the head of a high-level delegation to attend the third session of meetings of the Joint Sudanese-YAR Ministerial Committee, scheduled to be held here for 2 days, beginning Saturday.

In a statement upon arrival, 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr asserted that the visit aims to bolster coordination and cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the economic, educational,and commercial spheres in order to create new channels to develop and strengthen relations between the two countries.

Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, Sudanese minister for foreign affairs, who received the YAR minister and his delegation, said that the meetings of the joint ministerial committee is a continuation of what was discussed during the second session in San'a' in 1980 and a further promotion of cohesion and benefit from the abilities and capabilities of the two fraternal peoples. His excellency also described the joint meetings between Sudan and YAR as an example for the Arab nation to follow.

Joint Statement

JN181640 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA) — The Joint Sudanese-YAR Ministerial Committee ended its third session here today and the committee issued a final statement.

The statement mentioned that two subcommittees were formed to study means of promoting cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The two sides held constructive and fruitful talks in an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood and studied the draft protocols on cooperation between the two countries, which had been prepared by the competent parties, to promote the cooperation which exists between the legal bodies in the two countries. The two sides agreed to pusure the exchange of legal expertise and visits by judicial bodies in addition to exchanging views on legislation.

The Sudanese and Yemeni sides also agreed to continue lending Sudanese teachers to Yemen and to exchange university scholarships. In this respect, they signed a protocol organizing cooperation between the Sudanese and Yemeni Ministries of Education.

The two sides signed a protocol on agricultural cooperation to promote agricultural relations and to exchange agricultural expertise. They also decided to form a technical committee for this purpose.

Out of their desire to promote cultural relations, the two sides agreed to encourage cultural visits, strengthen cooperation between the two countries' news agencies, and to hold cultural weeks. In addition they agreed to promote radio and television cooperation and to exchange studies in the sphere of antiquities and excavation.

The final statement stated that the Joint Sudanese-YAR Ministerial Committee reviewed means for promoting trade exchange and agreed to exert more efforts to promote trade and economic exchange and added new items to the list of consumer goods which are being exchanged between the two countries within the framework of the 1980 trade protocol.

The two sides agreed to intensify meetings among the two countries' businessmen to become acquainted with the investment opportunities that are available in the two countries. They also agreed to expand direct contact and dealings among the two countries' economic, trade, industrial, and cooperative institutions.

With the purpose of promoting cooperation in the sphere of security and prisons, the two sides agreed to exchange expertise, information, and visits in these spheres and to provide training opportunities.

The statement mentioned that the meeting of the Joint Sudanese-YAR Ministerial Committee takes place to consolidate the fraternal relations between the two countries, governments, and people, to strengthen the historic bonds of kinship, blood, and destiny which bind the two peoples, and to implement the directives of Presidents Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on promoting joint cooperation between the two countries and the need to lay down practical formulas that would benefit the two fraternal peoples and would serve the Arab nation's aspirations for cooperation, solidarity, and integration in all fields and on all levels.

The two sides agreed to convene the fourth session of the committee in San'a' next year.

The final statement was signed by Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, Sudanese foreign minister, and by 'Ali Lutfi Ath-Thawr, foreign minister and member in the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress in the YAR.

YAR Delegation Departs

JN181540 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA) — 'Ali Lutfi ath-Thawr, YAR foreign minister and member of the Permanent Committee of the General People's Congress in the YAR, and the accompanying delegation left Khartoum for home this afternoon after participating in the third session of the Joint Sudanese-YAR Ministerial Committee meetings which convened here 16-18 April.

The delegation was seen off by Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak, political and executive action leaders, and the YAR ambassador in Khartoum.

ANGOLA

UNITA Communique on Health of Prisoners

AB151423 Paris AFP in French 1222 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Lisbon, 15 Apr (AFP) — UNITA, the main armed opposition movement to the Angolan Government, said on Friday that "none of the captured Czechoslovaks and Portuguese are seriously ill," and that the first group of prisoners will arrive at the movement's base in southern Angola on 20 April. In a communique brought to the AFP bureau, Jonas Savimbi's movement stressed that if there is any fighting between government and UNITA forces "only the prisoners will be victims."

UNITA states that after 2 weeks of unsuccessful ambushes and bombings in the regions held by UNITA, "the Angolan Government and Cuban forces" have extended their operations to Bie, Moxico, and Kuando Kubango Provinces in the eastern part of the country. According to UNITA, the Angolan Army still intends to attack the guerrilla groups that are taking the prisoners to the south.

UNITA draws the attention of the Prague and Lisbon governments and public international opinion to the fact that the "minority government in Angola is still summarily executing UNITA members and sentencing them to (?harsh) prison terms.

Official Asks France To Stay in Contact Group

AB142143 Luanda ANGOP in French 1735 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Luanda, 14 Apr (ANGOP) — "Have the objectives for which the five Western countries constituted themselves into a contact group for Namibia been attained yet?," Angolan Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Venancio da Moura asked yesterday while commenting on the possible French withdrawal from the Western contact group announced last week in Portugal by Lionel Jospin, the first secretary of the French Socialist Party [PS].

The deputy minister, who returned to Luanda yesterday from Montechoro, Portugal, where he attended the Socialist International conference as an observer, asserted that such objectives have not yet been realized because, according to him, racist South Africa continues illegally to occupy Namibia and part of the sovereign territory of the People's Republic of Angola, stressing that peace is not yet a reality in southern Africa. After explaining that France's membership in or withdrawal from the group "does not depend on Angola," he all the same felt that "France can and must continue to be a member of the group because its presence is useful." He then urged the French Government to make greater efforts toward the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

"It is hoped that every member country of the contact group, especially France, will adopt a correct and clear position in the face of the successive postponements of the implementation of UN Resolution 435," he stressed. It is worth recalling that the French Government has on several occasions expressed its intention to leave the "five member" Western group (France, United States, FRG, Great Britain, and Canada) which in the eyes of the international community has become inoperative and incompetent for the realization of the objectives it has set for itself at the time of its establishment — the resolution of the Namibian issue.

Venancio da Moura explained that aside from the deliberations of the Socialist International conference, the Angolan delegation held discussions with different world personalities and political forces to whom it explained the situation prevailing in southern Africa, especially "the direct or indirect acts of destabilization being carried out against our country by racist South Africa." It was on this occasion that the Angolan delegation and representatives of the "frontline" countries attending the conference were informed by the first secretary of the Socialist Party, Lionel Jospin, of the possibility of France's withdrawal from the contact group and to which the Angolan deputy foreign minister replied that this contact group was formed outside the United Nations and without the prior knowledge of African countries.

In conclusion, Venancio da Moura stressed that it is only the French Government which can determine the usefulness or the uselessness of its membership of the group. He also deplored the fact that the activities of the five Western countries on the Namibian issue are decided by the United States which favors the positions of the racist Pretoria regime.

BOTSWANA

Government Confirms Talks With Zimbabweans

MB181400 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] The office of the president has confirmed that an eight-man delegation from Zimbabwe was here over the weekend and held talks that were described by a Botswana Government official as of mutual interest. The Zimbabwean delegation, which returned home on Saturday, was led by the minister of home affairs, Dr Herbert Ushewokunze. The spokesman of the office of the president said that the delegation delivered a letter to the president, Masire, from the Zimbabwean prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe. No particular details of the letter were disclosed. About the meeting, news reports from Zimbabwe said the Zimbabwean delegation had come to Gaborone to discuss security matters under what they described as the joint Zimbabwean-Botswana Defense Commission. Here the Zimbabwean delegation were also met by President [as heard] Mr Peter Musi; the minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe; the minister for home affairs, Mrs Kebatshabile Disele, and other government officials.

MOZAMBIQUE

Tribunal Formed To Try Trawler Captain

MB181253 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] A maritime tribunal has been set up to try Captain Peter Davids of the South African trawler Morning Star caught fishing in Mozambican territorial waters a few days ago. The tribunal will be presided over by (Abdul Jalile) of the National Directorate for Sea and River Transport. The tribunal also includes representatives from the People's Tribunal of Maputo Province and the State Secretariat for Fisheries. The Durban-based Morning Star was recently caught fishing about 13 miles from Ponta de Inhaca.

VOFA Reports 25 Mar-12 Apr Renamo Operations

MB160920 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 15 Apr 83

["Communique on operational activity issued by the Headquarters of the Mozambique National Resistance ,Renamo" — date not given]

[Text] Maputo Province: On 25 March the people of (Mutadza) blocked the railway line by placing logs over the tracks.

On 7 April two vehicles were ambushed and burned on the road close to Mahel. Eight members of the Maputo oppressive forces were killed, and an assortment of military equipment was captured.

Gaza Province: On 6 April more than seven Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM] members were killed in Mangoro. Two B-11 cannons and 15 AK-47's weapons were captured.

Manica Province: On 4 April the Revue hydroelectric scheme was attacked by mortar and artillery fire. The Frelimo garrison suffered casualties, and the installations were damaged.

Sofala Province: On 5 April our forces attacked the (Mutua) communal villages, killing five militiamen. An assortment of war materiel was captured. Two FPLM vehicles were ambushed and destroyed by our forces in the (Munhamuchenga) area. Our forces killed 15 FPLM soldiers and captured large quantities of war materiel.

Inhambane Province: On 8 April 17 FPLM soldiers were killed and more than 20 were wounded during contact with our forces in the (Mabasa) area. On 10 April our forces killed three FPLM soldiers and captured large quantities of war materiel in the Mambone area.

On the same day the following operations were launched in Inhambane Province: Three military vehicles were ambushed and burned in the (Homwana) region. Eight FPLM soldiers were killed, and a variety of military equipment, including 12 AK-47's and 3 RPG-7's was captured. Our forces killed 12 FPLM soldiers and captured 7 AK-47's, and 3 FN weapons in the (Pembue) area. Two military vehicles were ambushed and burned in (Mahelue). Three Frelimo soldiers were killed. Assorted materiel and documents were captured. The railway line linking Inharrime to Inhambane city was sabotaged on four occasions between 8 and 12 April.

On 11 April a government bus was stopped at Zandamela. After the passengers had been removed our forces destroyed the bus.

The struggle continues. Freedom or death, victory is ours.

NAMIBIA

Swapo Kills 7; 9 Die in Landmine Blast

MB181028 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0913 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Windhoek, April 18, SAPA — SWAPO terrorists had murdered seven unarmed Kavango SWA Territory Force recruits, and nine civilians died in a landmine blast in northern SWA/Namibia, the SWATF headquarters announced in Windhoek today.

The SWATF said in a statement that the recruits, aged between 17 and 20, were wearing civilian dress when they were killed in Kavango last Friday night. Their names were being withheld until their families had been informed.

Security forces were following the tracks of the terrorists.

The SWATF said a vehicle of the Administration for Ovambo triggered a landmine south-west of Ruacana on Friday. The names of the nine people who died in the blast were not released.

SOUTH AFRICA

Government Contacts Mozambique Over Trawler

MB151811 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT15 Apr 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information says that the South African Government has already contacted the Mozambique Government about the Durban fishing boat Morning Star that was forced to sail into Maputo harbor. He says the department is awaiting information from the Mozambique authorities before deciding on any action.

Trawler Owner on Mozambique Sea Claim Limit

MB150904 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0541 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Durban, April 15, SAPA — The owner of a South African trawler impounded by Mozambican authorities for alleged illegal fishing said today he could not understand reports that the former Portuguese colony's territorial waters extended 320 km. "We've been fishing in that area for about 10 years and, we've always taken the limit as being 12 miles," Mr A.R. Shooter said. One of

his trawlers, the Morning Star, was forced into Maputo Harbour early this week by what the crew said were two East German vessels. Radio Maputo claimed the South African vessel was fishing inside a 320 km limit, and said its owner stood to forfeit his craft as well as being liable for a R200,000 fine.

"I don't know when they declared a 300 km limit. We had a notice from the government warning us not to enter Mozambique's territorial waters, but we've always taken it as 12 miles," Mr Shooter said. "We've always fished outside that limit — about 13 miles and more off the shore — and we've never been harassed." Mr Shooter said the Department of Foreign Affairs was still investigating the incident but had "very little information." The Morning Star's owner has not heard from his crew since Tuesday night.

Air Force Official on Missiles in Mozambique
MB160840 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT15 Apr 83

[Text] The chief of air staff operations of the South African Air Force, Major General J.P.B. Loggerenberg, says while the siting of the series of ground-to-air missiles in Mozambique could appear to the uninitiated as a mere self-defense measure, these weapons are in fact protecting the African National Congress training camps in Mozambique. At a presentation parade of 1,200 Air Force men at the Air Force gymnasium at Valhalla, near Pretoria, he said there had been a large buildup of Soviet weapons in Mozambique in the past 6 to 7 years. Besides the missile systems there had been an increase also in armored vehicles and other weapons, and South Africa could not turn a blind eye to this.

Botha Agrees To 'Test' Colored, Indian Opinion
MB150832 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2241 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Cape Town, April 14, SAPA — The prime minister, Mr P.W.Botha, has agreed to test the opinion of the Coloured and Indian communities on their projected participation in the new constitutional dispensaiton. This follows what he described as "responsible and constructive" discussions with Indian and Coloured leaders in Cape Town today.

In a statement issued in Cape Town Mr Botha said he had held talks with the executives of the Labour Party, led by the Reverend Alan Hendrickse, and the South African Indian Council, led by its chairman, Mr A. Rajbansi. "I informed the deputations that the draft bill on the constitution would, after completion of all its stages in Parliament and before its implementation, first be put to the white electorate which elected the present Parliament, by way of a referendum to be held on a suitable date."

"It was agreed that a suitable opportunity ought to be created for testing of the brown and Indian communities' opinions with regard to their participation in a new constituional dispensation. The method and date will, however, be negotiated with the leaders of these communities at a later stage." Mr Botha said that the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Huenis, would also hold discussions with the parties concerned.

Court Overrules Minister on Nonracial Unions
MB160623 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] A full bench of the Natal Supreme Court has upheld an appeal by four trade unions against rulings by the Industrial Registrar and the minister of manpower, Mr Fanie Botha, that they cannot register as nonracial trade unions.

In a judgement handed down in Pietermaritzburg, the full bench has ruled that the government does not have the right to limit the racial composition of a trade union. The four unions involved are the Metal and Allied Workers Union, the Transport and General Workers Union, the Chemical Workers Union, and the National Union of Textile Workers. In ruling against the minister's decision not to allow the unions' multiracial membership, Mr Justice (Leon) said that he was quite unable to accept that different races necessarily had different interests. Industrial interests would usually be common to all employees, irrespective of race.

New Constitution To Be Unveiled Before 10 May
MB190651 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2322 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Louis Trichardt, April 18, SAPA — The proposed new Constitution for South Africa is to be announced before May 10, the minister of internal affairs and leader of the National Party in the Transvaal, Mr F.W. de Klerk, announced at a meeting in Louis Trichardt tonight, SABC radio news reports. May 10 is the date of three parliamentary by-elections in the Transvaal.

Mr de Klerk said the Constitution would be true to the principles contained in existing guidelines. As far as the guidelines were concerned, the government would not maintain the rights of the whites at the expense of the rights of other groups and would not fob these groups off with second-class citizenship. There should exist between the whites and the other groups an understanding leading to security, prosperity and peace for all, he said.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Announces Soviets To Reschedule Debts
MB160620 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] President Kaunda has revealed that the Soviet Union has agreed to the rescheduling of the repayment of loans by Zambia as detailed in the letter to be discussed by the two sides later. He praised the Soviet Union for agreeing to reschedule loans, adding that this has proved wrong Western charges that the socialist block does not help in Third World countries economically during these difficult years.

Addressing a press conference at State House today, Dr Kaunda also said Zambia's creditors are to meet in Paris soon to consider

the government's request for rescheduling of each loan repayment. He urged all Zambia's creditors to send representatives to the Paris club to consider Zambia's case. Dr Kaunda explained that Zambia was no longer able to meet her loan repayments promptly because of the low export earnings, which resulted from the world economic recession. The president said the creditors would be helping Zambia's economy by agreeing to reschedule the repayment on the country's loans.

Dr Kaunda also announced that the International Monetary Fund, IMF, has granted Zambia a line of credit to cover the country's imports for a year. President Kaunda said the fifth disbursement only offered 5 million kwacha to be made available on April 30. This would be followed by another disbursement of 115 million kwacha on new term and quarterly withdrawal of 38 million kwacha. Dr Kaunda said the governor of the Bank of Zambia, Mr (Dutywe Komani), has been authorized to give details of the loan. The president said he agreeed with the IMF that consumption should be related to earnings, and in this respect he called for reduction in consumption in all sectors.

Stressing the need to curtail consumption, Dr Kaunda pointed out that Zambia is a poor country and assistance should be [word indistinct] accordingly. He said: "Let's live simply but think highly."

Discusses Economy, Tour

MB151544 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] President Kaunda has called for a complete restructuring of the Zambian economy in order to pull the nation out of the current economic hardships caused by the worldwide recession. The president told a State House news conference today that Zambia, like the rest of the international community, faced a very grave economic situation calling for more sacrifices and dedication by all Zambians in having it solved.

He said the nation could no longer pretend to be a rich country when it was not, and there was need for the nation to control consumption while increasing the means of production and taking many other measures to correct the situation. The president told the conference, which was on his recent marathon tour of Europe, the United States, Cape Verde, and Algeria, as well as on the Zambian economic situation, that it was quite clear that the problems Zambia was facing started in 1973, when oil prices shot up tremendously. He said this, coupled with the downward trend of copper and the increase in industrialized goods, much to Zambia's disadvantage, further worsened things, and Zambia would have to (?determine) her [words indistinct] apart from the [word indistinct] international aid it was receiving from solvent economies.

The president also declared war on price sharks, and said they are worsening the situation by charging exploitative prices illegally. He explained that the only general excuse that can be allowed on [word indistinct] costs was when some parastatals have to charge economic prices to cover their deficit. He warned that the party would not allow the masses to be exploited by the sharks and would not rest until the situation is brought under control.

On international relations [words indistinct] his recent marathon tour, the president said that the bilateral relations between Zambia and the respective countries he visited had improved further, and expressed the hope that pressing international political issues would soon be solved. The president also disclosed that the IMF would give Zambia $55 million under a special drawing rights arrangements with it, at the end of this month. Ten days later Zambia will receive a further $150 million, after which it will continue receiving $48.5 million quarterly, under the same conditions. The money will be used to help the country rejuvenate its economy and avoid massive worker layoffs.

ZIMBABWE

Catholic Bishops Issue 'Conciliatory' Statement

AB141913 Paris AFP in English 1755 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Harare, April 15 [as received] (AFP) — Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic bishops, who recently angered Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government by accusing the Army of a "reign of terror" against civilians in southwestern Matabeleland, today issued a conciliatory statement saying the situation in the southwest is improving. The seven members of the bishops' conference signed a message to mark Zimbabwe's third independence anniversary on April 18 saying they "welcome the assurance given by the prime minister that allegations of brutality on the part of the security forces will be investigated and that any necessary action will be taken."

The bishops were referring to an address by Mr. Mugabe on April 5 to the heads of all the country's Christian denominations, in which he sharply rejected the bishops' allegations as coming from "sanctimonious prelates" who "presume to lecture us on the morality of the nation's anti-dissident campaign". The bishops had charged the Army had commited widespread atrocities during its drive against anti-government dissidents in Matabeleland. The Army had caused the "maiming and death of hundreds and hundreds of innocent people", the bishops said. The bishops' Easter message, which called on the government to stop the Army's killings, created much government antagonism towards the Catholic church, the country's largest single Christian denomination, with more than 630,000 members.

The bishops' new message should reduce tension with the government as it praises "recent indications that life in Matabeleland is gradually returning to normal: Drought relief (food aid) is being resumed, curfews are being lifted, stores and schools are being reopened, and bus service are being restored." In their Easter letter the bishops stated that the killings were continuing but today's message indicated they believe the executions have subsided.

The Catholic prelates do not disavow their previous allegations, however, saying they "have the duty to speak on matters touching the political order whenever basic person rights ... make such utterances necessary. In exercising this right our only aim has been to promote true and lasting peace in our country." The message continues, "We believe that government has both the

right and the duty to protect its citizens from dissident activity, and to use its armed forces for this purpose, but we condemn wanton violence by whomsoever it is committed.... We are confident the government shares our concern in these matters."

The bishops noted the prime minister had said he wanted good relations with the Church through "frank" discussions. They concurred, stating they "believe that true and lasting friendship requires and demands frankness on both sides."

Mugabe Issues Warning to Ministers 17 Apr
NC171932 Paris AFP in English 1848 GMT 17 Apr 83

[Text] Harare, April 17 (AFP) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe today reaffirmed Zimbabwe's socialist line and threatened action against Cabinet ministers and others whom he said have amassed personal wealth through office.

Mr Mugabe, in a speech to a reception here during third anniversary celebrations of Zimbabwe's independence, said greedy local councillors and mayors had used influence to win rich public works contracts and had misappropriated public funds. "Even some government ministers, with a ... hypocritical commitment to socialism, have under one guise or another, proceeded to acquire huge properties, by way of commercial farms and other business concerns," the prime minister said. He did not identify any minister by name. Mr Mugabe said true socialists in Zimbabwe must unveil those whom he described as "wolves in sheep's skin" so that they could be clearly recognized as "ravenous wolves against whom the innocent masses must be protected".

Mugabe on Government Control of Enterprises
MB160751 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister says the government intends to acquire all or the majority of shares in certain specific areas of the economy. In an article in the April edition of ZIMBABWE NEWS, the official organ of ZANU-PF, Comrade Mugabe named these sectors as the milling industry, the fuel procurement business, the national transport service, and many other areas of the economic sector. He says it is the belief of the government that certain enterprises are better operated as state enterprises because of their strategic nature or character of investment.

The prime minister pointed out that the state has already acquired all or the majority of shares in the country's mass media, Zimbank, Wankie Colliery, and (Capps). The article was released yesterday to mark Zimbabwe's 3rd year of independence.

Independence Day Celebrations Reported 18 Apr
MB181749 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Apr 83

[Text] Zimbabweans throughout the country today continued to celebrate the third anniversary of our independence by being involved in many activities. In Harare the festivities were attended at the Rufaro Stadium, where President Banana and the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, were guests of honor. The thousands of spectators at the stadium were entertained to traditional dances, singing, the fly pass by members of the Zimbabwe Air Force, and a magnificant display by the Presidential Guard, whose unit is based in Inyanga.

In an address to the mammoth crowd President Banana spoke on the need of Zimbabweans of whatever color or creed to maintain unity and peace in this country. He said the government, on the other hand, is determined to achieve unity and peace at any costs, and it will therefore not allow self-speaking individuals to destroy such an effort. Comrade Banana said the government will not allow the country to suffer because of events in Matabeleland in the past year. He hoped all people will continue to cooperate with the forces of law and order until all banditry is eliminated.

President Banana outlined a number of achievements that were carried out by the government in the past year, among which was the resettlement of more than 9,000 families and the establishment of the Youth Brigade movement. On the international scene the president said Zimbabwe is enjoying support from many countries, and this is signified by the election of Comrade Mugabe as one of the vice chairmen of the Nonaligned Movement during its session in New Delhi recently.

In Bulawayo thousands of people flooded (Babafield Stadium) for the celebrations, and the minister of natural resources and tourism, Comrade Chitepo represented the government. The celebrations reached their climax with the dropping of five skydivers from the Matabeleland Skydivers Club. At State House in the same city the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, hosted a reception.

A Zimbabwean Broadcasting Corporation correspondent in Shamva reports that the government chief whip, Comrade Muroyiwa, who officiated at the celebrations, appealed for reconciliation to be observed by both whites and blacks.

In Mutare the minster of national supply, Comrade Nkala, represented the government. Speaking on the same occasion the major of Mutare, Councilor (Jawi), pledged the residents to pay their rents in order to improve amenities.

In other centers of Zimbabwe the independence of festivities will come to an end with the holding of evening functions.

Mugabe, Banana Address Celebrants
MB190701 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The government will not hesitate to ban ZAPU if the party continues to support dissidents. Speaking at a reception to mark the third independence anniversary at State House in Bulawayo yesterday, the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, said there is enough evidence of support given to dissidents by some ZAPU officials. He pointed out that those involved include party members at the provincial, district, and branch levels. However, he said, there are other members of ZAPU who do not support the dissidents, mainly those who are in the government and those who have made their views known.

The prime minister said ZANU-PF and the government will never accept the philosophy of dissidents and warned that any community which decides to give support to these rebels will have no one to blame when severe punishment is meted out against them. Comrade Mugabe stressed that the security forces will not punish innocent people.

Earlier, the prime minister and the president, Comrade Banana, attended the celebration festivity at Rufaro statium in Harare. Thousands of people at the stadium gave a thunderous welcome to the president and the prime minister. Entertainment programs included traditional dances, a fly past by the Zimbabwe Air Force aircraft, bare-hand brick smashing by members of the Presidential Guard, and a mass card display by members of the youth brigade.

Addressing the huge crowd, President Banana outlined the achievements made by the government in the past year. Among the achievements made, the president said the government had resettled more than 9,000 families and 310 cooperativies had been registered. Comrade Banana said the government has also launched the piped water scheme in communal areas.

The president appealed to the people, irrespective of their color or creed, to maintain unity and peace in the country. He reiterated that the government is determined to crush dissidents. Celebration activities continued also in other towns and districts throughout the country.